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ADDRESS

ON THE *Ad. N. H. H.*

EARLY REMINISCENCES

OF

WESTERN NEW-YORK

AND THE

LAKE REGION OF COUNTRY.

DELIVERED BEFORE THE
YOUNG MEN'S ASSOCIATION OF BUFFALO.
FEBRUARY 16, 1848.

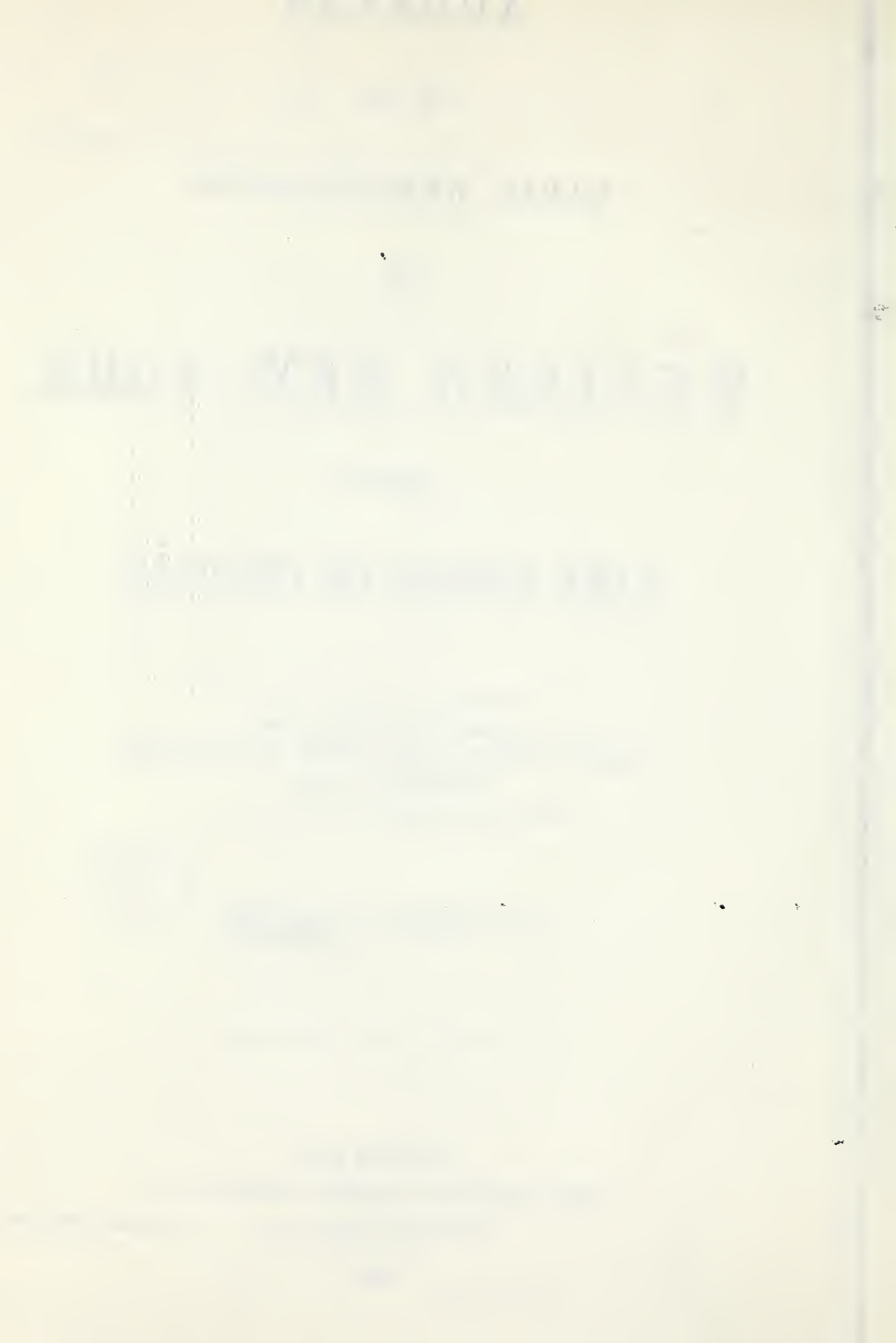
BY JAMES L. BARTON.

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1848.



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CORRESPONDENCE.

YOUNG MEN'S ASSOCIATION ROOMS,
Buffalo, March 30th, 1843.

JAS. L. BARTON, ESQ:

DEAR SIR—The Lecture delivered by yourself, before this Association, on the evening of the 16th ultimo, entitled "Reminiscences of Western New-York and the Lake Region," merits in the opinion of this Committee, and of the many members of the Association with whom we have communicated, a more extended publicity.

The appropriate statistics you have thus embodied, we regard as eminently valuable, and worthy of preservation by all who feel an interest in the wonderful progress of that wilderness region, the outlines of whose early history you have so faithfully and attractively sketched. The minuteness of detail, too, which you have taken pains to give us, supplies one of the most important essentials of real history; for it is not the record of great and startling and isolated events that shows us the true character of an age or people—it is, rather, the narration of the every day affairs of actual life, that enables us to correctly judge of their social, political, and moral condition.

This chief requisite of reliable histories, this Committee are desirous of keeping in view, in their humble endeavors to elicit, and gather up, the materials that may, in the future, combine to form the chronicles of Buffalo and this frontier.

With this feeling, we should be gratified to have your Lecture, so replete with historical interest, printed in pamphlet form, for general circulation; believing that its publication cannot fail to be of benefit, as illustra-

tive of events and of a period, that constitute an important portion of the history of Western New-York, and hoping, likewise, that it may have the effect of drawing out, from others, similar and corroboratory narratives of like scenes and incidents — which, thus rescued from the oblivion that so generally engulfs them when the generation in which they transpire has passed away, may be truthful and graceful remembrances from us to posterity.

We remain, &c.,

GEORGE V. BROWN,

W. D. TABER,

GUY H. SALISBURY,

Committee on Local History.

Buffalo, April 4, 1848.

GENTLEMEN: Your letter of the 30th of March, requesting the publication, in pamphlet form, of my address, delivered before the Young Men's Association on the 16th February, is received.

That my humble effort, exhibited in that address, to rescue from oblivion many interesting incidents and events connected with the early settlement of Western New-York and the lake region of country, has been so acceptable to the Association for whom it was prepared, and the very kind and complimentary manner in which you express yourselves in reference to it, demands from me and I beg you to accept my most grateful thanks.

When writing that address, although designed for the use of the historian, I did not anticipate the printing of it in the form desired, during my life, being called for. But immediately after its delivery, I discovered an interest excited by the subject that I could not have hoped for, and from letters which I received and from personal communications, I perceived a strong desire was manifested for its publication in some other form than the evanescent one of a newspaper.

Being aware how interesting the subject treated of by me was to my fellow citizens, and desirous if the address was to be published in the form now desired, it should be pruned of all important errors at least, I

commenced corresponding with different persons for more certain data in relation to some portions of it. These corrections (and I am happy to say but few were needed) have been made. And now gentlemen, having received a formal and official request from the Association whom you represent, in the very flattering language you have been pleased to use, to have my address appear in pamphlet form, it affords me great pleasure to accede to your wishes.

The address will appear, divested of errors so far as any have been discovered, precisely as it was delivered; but, I have taken the liberty of appending some additional notes, which I trust will not be found useless nor destitute of interest.

I have, with a strict regard to truth alone, faithfully represented events as they have been related to me, which I have read of, or personally witnessed myself, of years past and bye-gone; and the reader may place implicit confidence in the statements I have made.

Truth alone being my object, and treating of a district of country, an Empire in size, which, only sixty years ago, was a dense wilderness; its sole occupants roving bands of wild Indians and savage animals; now teeming with an intelligent, wealthy and enterprising population of six MILLIONS of free citizens, having an internal trade passing through their rivers and lakes, greater in amount annually, by many millions of dollars, than the whole foreign commerce of the Union with all the nations of the world. The change, so rapid and so great, may appear to other nations, and the older portions of our own country, and to the generations who may succeed us, as fabulous and impossible — (they having no standard by which to compare its growth) — my statements may to them seem like an old man's tale.

Wishing to preserve myself from this imputation, and that justice may be done to the memory of those able and noble minded men, the early pioneers, who first laid the plans which their successors are so fully carrying out; I earnestly unite with you in the wish, that of the hundreds in Western New-York, who are able to do it, some few at least, will furnish to the Young Men's Association of Buffalo, such facts as they may have in their possession, corroborative of what I have stated, and all such others as will further illustrate the early history of this part of our state.

Identified as I am by birth, and while life lasts, hope to be by residence, with Western New-York, the garden of the State; and by interest and feeling with the great west, the happy home of millions; and whose broad and extensive surface is destined to be the abode of countless

multitudes, I feel that I discharge but a duty to the young and rising population, in bringing to their knowledge some of the incidents connected with the early settlement of a country now abounding in wealth and population, which, only a few short years since, when first penetrated by their predecessors, was an unbroken wilderness, affording but little means of subsistence, and surrounded by dangers on every side.

I beg you to accept, young gentlemen, individually, my best wishes for your future prosperity and happiness.

Yours, most respectfully,

J. L. BARTON.

TO MESSRS. GEORGE V. BROWN,

W. D. TABER,

GUY H. SALISBURY.

Committee on Local History,

of the Young Men's Association of Buffalo.

ADDRESS.

FROM the many years I have resided in Buffalo and on the Niagara frontier, the frequent opportunities I have had of knowing and conversing with many of the early settlers of this part of our State, and with others; from the reading of the fragments of its published history, the traditionary stories I have heard related, and, from a personal knowledge of early incidents, many have conceived the idea, that I am in possession of some material that will, when the proper time arrives for performing the work, be of service to the individual on whom the task shall fall of writing the early history of Western New-York; as well as the large and important district of country bordering on the great lakes.

Entertaining this idea as many do, I have been often solicited by different individuals to commit this information to writing in the form of a popular address, and deposit the manuscript for preservation and future use, in the archives of the Young Mens' Association of this city. That such a request is neither wrong nor unreasonable is very manifest; the early settlers are fast passing away, and are nearly all gone; but few or any of them have left any written memorial or record of "what they saw and part of which they were;" and when the last one shall depart, we shall have no other history of those interesting events attending the early settlement of this part of our State, than traditionary tales, more or less obscured by the lapse of time.

To gather up and secure in some preservable shape these matters, from any and all sources, is deemed of much importance; vastly more so than the style and finish in which it shall be done, and is urged amongst other reasons why so humble an individual as myself has been requested to contribute his mite; and the *only one* that could have induced me to comply.

Standing therefore before you as I now do, the humble recorder of interesting reminiscences of times past and gone bye, which if not dear to those who have recently come amongst us, are feelingly so to the descendants of those noble minded, able and efficient men, the early pioneers, who first penetrated this great wilderness, and through much suffering and toil, laid broad and deep the foundation upon which we, their successors, are now erecting our fortunes and fame. I say, standing in the attitude I do before you, may I not reasonably ask from you, that you will kindly forbear any rigid criticism, on the style and language in which I shall perform my labor, and direct your attention alone and altogether to the subject matter I shall present to you.

Were I an accomplished writer, or extensive traveller, had I visited the shores of Greece and Italy, the classic ground of the scholar, and were you now assembled to listen to my recital of written and traditionary stories I had heard in those famed lands, equally apochryphal as true; but which time has rendered venerable and consecrated as truths; I should be sure of receiving your attention. But I possess none of these interesting qualifications, and I am not to speak of Greece or Italy. My subject is the early settlement of this part of my native State, and, incidentally connected with it, the great lake country.

It is not necessary my fellow citizens, that we should travel out of sight of our own dwellings to find a region full of

interest; and when time shall have thrown its softening and consecrated mantle over it, the incidents and events that have taken place in it, will create as much interest, in the minds of Americans at least, as is now felt for other countries which have the advantage of our own in years.

I now refer to that portion of country lying between Lakes Erie and Ontario, bordering on the banks of the Niagara river. Here, long before the foot of the white man trod this continent, armies of Indian warriors have been marshalled and the mastery contended for; here, at a later period have European nations brought their embattled hosts into the fight with the Indians for Empire; here, at a still later period, have European nations contended with each other unto death for this goodly land; and yet later, has the blood of the Englishman and the American shed in mortal combat, been commingled together, and run in torrents into the deep and blue waters of the great Niagara.

That these and many other alike deeply interesting events took place on the banks of this river is undoubtedly true. Yet, as much of their history exists only in tradition, I do not hold myself responsible that such of them as have been related to me, happened in the manner precisely as I shall narrate them; but, that I state truly what I heard related of them many years ago.—But to my story.

The French, under Cartier, ascended the river St. Lawrence as early as 1535, as far as Montreal, where in the name of the French King he took formal possession by erecting a cross and shield, with the arms of France upon it, and named the country New-France. From this spot, pushing forward with great zeal and perseverance, they extended themselves from the Ocean to the Mississippi, and finally descended that river. This was not the work of a day nor a year; but from the time they first got foothold at the mouth of the St. Lawrence river,

they persevered, and by means of force and treaties with the Indians, at length accomplished this great object. Warriors, Statesmen, Scholars and Divines were alike engaged, and each performed his part, according to the circumstances in which he was placed.

Passing over the settlements on the St. Lawrence, Fort Frontenac, Oswego, and many places on Lake Champlain, I come directly to some of their operations on the Niagara frontier.

By a treaty or other arrangement made with the Indians, they obtained the use of a piece of ground large enough to build upon it a trading house, and to erect other necessary buildings for the protection of their goods and the accommodation of the traders; and out of this permission grew a fort, which the Indians soon found, but too late, was too strong for them to contend against. The French themselves, conscious of their own weakness, their vast distance from any aid or assistance, became very wary and conciliatory in all their intercourse with the natives. The great tact shown by them in this course of conduct, gained them the confidence and friendship, and even protection, of those whose property they had thus gotten hold of; so strong, that in after years, when the English had dispossessed the French, it was with great difficulty eradicated.

The early possessions of the French on this Continent; the great length of time they held them; the great strength they accumulated in men and war materials; and the powerful influence they acquired over the Indian nations around these great waters, rendered it extremely difficult for the English Government to dispossess them. Many severe and bloody battles were fought between the English forces, composed of British troops and their colonists on one side, and the French and their Indian allies on the other. These

battles were confined to no particular locality, nor any one year; but extended from Louisbourg on the Island of Cape Breton, through all the frontier settlements in New England; along the waters of Lake Champlain to the City of Schenectady, which was ravaged and destroyed; along the Niagara frontier, into the interior of Pennsylvania, the back settlements of Virginia, down the Ohio River, and over nearly the whole State of Kentucky, which latter State, from the murders and fights which took place within it, acquired the appellation, and is yet known as the "dark and bloody ground."

These Indian fights and murders in Kentucky occurred at a time after the French had been dispossessed of their power on this Continent, and were the result of the bad influence the English exerted over the Indians, and who roused them into action and encouraged them in all manner of barbarities against their own colonists, after they had declared and succeeded in establishing their Independence. It is not my intention to go into details of all these wars and fights, and only mention them to show the vast and powerful influence which foreign governments once had on the destinies of this Continent.

I shall enter somewhat into particulars and dates, so far as I have read or heard related, of the operations of the French and English on the banks of our own beautiful river. Without going back to the most early times, I shall commence at the period of time, 1759, when the last, most powerful, and finally successful effort was made on the part of England and her colonies on this Continent, to break up and root out all French power and influence which they had held so long.

By reference to the published history of those times, it will be seen that during the administration of Mr. Pitt, afterwards the Earl of Chatham, three powerful expeditions were fitted out for this purpose. One to operate against Quebec, under

General Wolfe; another to penetrate Canada, under General Amherst, the Commander-in-Chief, by the way of Lake Champlain, reduce the French fortresses on that lake, capture Fort Frontenac, (now Kingston,) descend the Rivers St. John and St. Lawrence, reduce the strong hold of the French at Montreal; then, to pass on and aid in the reduction of the stronger fortress of Quebec.

The third, under the command of General Prideaux, passed up the Mohawk River, descended Wood Creek into the Oneida Lake, down the outlet of the same into the Oswego River, and by it reached Lake Ontario. Here the French had a strong fort called Ontario, on the west side of the river, directly on the bank of the lake, but which they had abandoned, having withdrawn their troops from it to reinforce their army on the River St. Lawrence. General Prideaux took possession of this fort, and after constructing an additional number of boats, sufficient to embark his army, their provisions and military stores, coasted the shore of that lake to Fort Niagara, the reduction of which post being the particular object in view.

The French were well prepared to receive them, and the works and means of defence were too strong to be assailed successfully in any other manner than by regular investment. The English forces set themselves down before the place, and commenced on the plains in front, regular military approaches, and pressed their enemy all within their power by means of artillery. While employed in the trenches, superintending the investment, General Prideaux was killed, on the 2d of July, by the bursting of a cohorn, through the carelessness of an artillery soldier.

The French being duly advised of the force coming against the fort, sent runners or messengers to their other military stations up the lake, requesting a concentration of them near

Niagara, in the expectation that in doing so they would be strong enough to capture or destroy the English army. In compliance with this order, the troops at Erie, Venango and other places, embarked on board of two vessels and sailed to the relief of the assailed fortress. The vessels, on entering the river at Black Rock, sailed down it and came to anchor on the American side of Navy Island, (whether this gave the name to the island I cannot say,) from whence the troops were conveyed in boats over to Fort Schlosser. The vessels, for better security against the winds and the current, were taken into the small bay at the lower end of Grand Island, and between it and another small island called Buck-horn. From Schlosser the troops marched down the river to the relief of the besieged.

Sir William Johnson on whom the command devolved after the death of Gen. Prideaux, being aware of their advance, and determined to prevent a junction between the approaching force and the garrison, broke up his investment of the fort, concentrated his troops and marched up the river to meet his enemy and give him battle. They came in collision on the 24th of July, a short distance above the present village of Youngstown, and after a severe struggle the French were defeated and driven back. They retired to Schlosser and made great exertions to rally their Indian friends to their assistance. The English returned and re-invested the fort and continuing their operations against it, soon compelled its surrender. They soon after sent off a detachment to capture fort Schlosser, but the Indians from the Genesee river and other places had assembled in considerable numbers at that place to aid the French. The English detachment was met on its march by the French and Indians and defeated, many were killed and wounded, two were taken prisoners and carried to the Genesee river, to Little Beard's town, and were afterwards

in the month of November burnt at the stake. Some of the oxen taken from the English on this occasion, the Indians took home with them. Mrs. Jemison, better known as the *white woman*, who died a few years ago on the Buffalo reservation says, they were the first neat cattle she ever saw on the Genesee flats, where she had resided a prisoner to the Indians for some time previous.

Information soon arriving on this frontier, of the complete success of the other English columns, the fall of Quebec and with it the whole country up to, and including fort Niagara, placed the small French force at Schlosser in a desperate situation. And, upon the starting of another competent expedition from Niagara for their capture, made up their minds, that inasmuch as they could not successfully fight the English, they would diminish the trophies of victory as much as possible, determined to sacrifice their vessels and what military stores they had on board; and in pursuance of this determination set on fire and burned up the vessels in the bay where they were anchored, near the mouth of a small creek entering the river from Grand Island. From this circumstance this creek acquired the name of "burnt ship," and has retained it to this day. I have seen large quantities of cannon balls, bar shot, grape shot, and canister shot in tin cases, similar to those now used, which had been obtained from the spot where the vessels were burned. The tin canisters were bright and whole when first taken out of the water, but soon after their exposure to the air, the soldering corroded and they would fall to pieces. Two or three anchors were also recovered, one of which had one arm or fluke broken off.

On the 13th of September, General Wolfe defeated Montcalm on the plains of Abraham, and Quebec soon surrendered to the English army. The French, driven from the waters of

Lake Champlain—Forts Frontenac, Niagara, Montreal, Oswego, and other posts taken from them, their armies defeated and captured, the whole of thier possessions fell into the hands of the English, and forever prostrated French power and dominion on this Continent. Thus the month of September, 1759, witnessed the consummation of plans and efforts which had been in operation from 1629, and to carry out which, had required immense expenditures of blood and treasure. These conquests were finally ratified between the parties by the treaty of Paris in 1763, by which the French surrendered all their possessions east of the Mississippi river to the English. To record all the battles, scenes of murder, and other thrilling events which occurred between the two nations on this Continent, extending over a period of more than one hundred and thirty years, would require many volumes and be a work of great labor. I only mention some of them which occurred in our own immediate vicinity, as an evidence that we are in a locality surrounded with reminiscences of a highly interesting and thrilling character, and the more we understand of them the more interesting they become.

Retracing our steps a little, it is well enough to observe that some years (the precise period I cannot tell,) before the events just related took place, the French had erected where the present ferry is, between Lewiston and Queenstown, a small stockade, for the protection of the property and military stores delivered at that place from the vessels they had on Lake Ontario.

This spot was then the end or head of navigation, and here every thing passing to and from the West was transferred. Property was conveyed up the river bank by an inclined plane. From this place to the brow of the mountain, near Fort Grey, a small battery built in the summer of 1812,

during the late war with England,* (the selection of the spot and the construction of this work was by a Colonel or General Grey, an Irishman, who had distinguished himself during the unfortunate rebellion in that country in 1798, and whose name was transferred to the battery,) they constructed a railway. At the end where it stopped on the brow of the mountain, another stockade was erected for the protection of the property passing over, and security of the persons employed about it.

From this place the old French portage road around the falls was longer than the present one. It ran along the bank of the river as close as the nature of the ground would permit, until we reach the place where the road forks. One going direct to the village at the falls, the other to old Fort Schlosser; from this point the old French road ran between the two present ones on a straight line, and struck the river a half or three-fourths of a mile above the present residence of Judge Porter, on the flat ground where the present railroad runs close to the river; this place was called the "French landing," and is now known as such to all the older settlers in that vicinity. Here for some distance around, the land was cleared and another stockade was erected. They had another and larger military work up the river, in the large open field adjoining Gill Creek, about half or three-quarters of a mile below its mouth.

After the events of 1759, the English abandoned the old French military works, and constructed another where the present cluster of buildings stands at the end of the road leading to Lewiston. The large chimney around which a small building is erected, belonged to the English mess-house,

* Phineas Stanton, a gallant soldier, then an Ensign in the militia, had command of the fatigue party; he was afterwards a Major in General Porter's Volunteers, and taken prisoner in the battle of Lundy's Lane, July 25th, 1814; and died a few years ago at his residence in Wyoming County, a Major General in the militia.

as it was called, it was a large inconvenient structure, very high between joints; the frame of this building was prepared at Fort Niagara, while in possession of the French, for a Catholic church at that place, the English hauled it over to Schlosser and put it up there. This was the residence of Judge Porter for several years after he removed to the Niagara frontier, and was burned down by the British when they invaded the country in December, 1813.

The English built a saw-mill at the Falls, removed the place of landing used by the French to a short distance above their new fort at Schlosser, where the water was deeper and access to it easier. They then opened the present road from Schlosser to the forks, before spoken of, where it intersected the old French road. From that place to Lewiston, the course of the road has been very much altered and straightened since that time.

Some remains of the old French works can yet be seen in the old field near the bank of the river, but they have been ploughed over and levelled so much that but little remains of them. In this old field was a grave surrounded by pickets, for many years, said to be the grave of Captain Schlosser: all appearances of it are now gone. About one mile from the river on the new road opened by the English, they erected a stockade, the remains of which can now be seen. Some remains of the pickets of the old French stockade, built many years before this English one, were discovered on digging into the ground for the construction of Fort Grey.

The French in building their railway from the ferry at Lewiston to the brow of the mountain, it appears, did not level the ground where it was too high or fill up the hollows, as is now done in constructing similar works. Where the ground was level, hewn timber with a rabbet or shoulder projecting upwards from the outward edges, similar to log

railways in saw mills, connected with cross pieces, were laid upon and rested firmly on stones laid under them; in passing over hollows, instead of filling them up, stone pediments were built up to the proper level and the timber ways laid on them, and in this manner was carried to its completion. The power made use of for raising the cars was capstans or windlasses. When a boy, hunting squirrels and other game, I have often traced the line of this railway, where could be seen distinctly the timber lying, decayed to be sure, but for many rods in continuation, and the stone pediments were yet in many places quite perfect. Not having been over the ground for more than thirty years, I cannot say whether any vestiges of the line can now be seen or not.

Following up the bloody incidents which took place on this river, it is proper I should mention one which may be ranked amongst the most bloody, malicious and revengeful, it falls to the pen to record. This occurred in the year 1763, several years after the French power and possessions in this country had been wrested from them. The same year that the Great Pontiac, who was always friendly to the French, made his powerful effort to drive the English from their newly acquired possessions in the upper or western country.

It is well known that for several years after the French had been dispossessed by the English, the strong influence and sympathy which they had succeeded in fixing upon the minds of the Indians in their favor, remained in full force, and they felt nowise disposed to be very friendly to the English. Although the French power had been destroyed and their troops withdrawn from the country, many Frenchmen remained and mingled with the Indians and kept alive the strong feeling and sympathy which they had succeeded in securing to such an eminent degree. This hatred to the English and strong attachment to the French was soon destined to be

exhibited for no other purpose, it would appear, than the mere gratification of a desire for blood and plunder, and to manifest their hostile and revengeful spirit to the new comers.

The English on taking possession of the French works on this frontier, kept soldiers in the fort at Niagara, at the landing at Lewiston, Schlosser, and in the several stockades which they built along the portage road. They seemed to be fully aware of the hatred which the Indians entertained for them; and doubtless took every conciliatory means in their power to win their friendship, as well as taking every military precaution to prevent any injury resulting to them from the ill will of the Indians.

In transporting their supplies from the lower lake to their possessions in the upper country, teams of wagons drawn by horses and oxen, went in squads or caravans over the portage, accompanied with strong guards of soldiers. This practice was continued for several years, and from the extraordinary vigilance and precaution taken, and perhaps at the same time the mistaken idea entered into the minds of the English, that, by their vigilant as well as conciliatory course towards the Indians their strong feelings in favor of the French had begun to give way, and was turning in their favor, and that in future they were to apprehend no danger from them. In this they were soon to be undeceived. They were yet to learn, alas! too fatally, that the Indians and French bided their time for revenge. Reposing in this false opinion, the English became less cautious and watchful, their teams and property continued to pass the portage, but were guarded with less care.

The French who remained with the Indians, observing the careless and unsuspecting manner in which the English were conducting themselves, and the false security into which they

had been lulled, awoke in the minds of the Indians a revival of the former good feeling between them, and suggested that the long wished for opportunity had now arrived, for taking revenge on their common enemies, the English. A scheme was soon planned, by which the Indians and French should waylay and destroy the teams and their guards when passing over the portage. Accordingly the Indians on the Buffalo Reservation, Genesee Flats, and other places, with the French amongst them, raised a force of several hundreds, and, unobserved by the English, passed through the woods to, and assembled at the place on the Niagara River, known as the Devil's Hole.

At this place they hid themselves amongst the trees and bushes and behind a ridge of land a little interior from the bank of the river, and lay in wait for the convoy of teams coming up from Lewiston. The morning of that fatal day, said to be the 24th of June, a large number of teams with their attendants, accompanied with a small guard of soldiers, the whole company numbering something less than one hundred persons, started from the landing at Lewiston for Schlosser, under the direction of William Stedman, who resided at Fort Schlosser, and was the superintendent or contractor for conducting the transportation business.

Approaching the Devil's Hole, from Lewiston, about half a mile before reaching it, the road descends a smart hill and runs upon a flat piece of ground of no very great width. The widest part is near where you first come upon it; it continues to narrow as you follow on, until opposite the Devil's Hole, it narrows to that degree as to leave only room enough for a wagon road to pass over a small spur of the ridge which bounds the eastern side of the flat; passing this spur you again enter another and smaller flat spot of ground through which runs a small brook, which, running a few rods, falls

into the Devil's Hole. Such was the place selected for the accomplishment of the bloody tragedy which was so soon to take place.

The day was beautiful; the sun shone out in splendor—the birds were singing from the trees,—and all nature seemed reposing in serenity and peace—the lazy teams were plodding along carelessly—the guards were scattered, a perfect unconsciousness of danger having seized upon all—the whole party had descended into the first piece of flat ground, many had passed the spur of the ridge into the second, and crossed the small brook—when the sudden and appalling war whoop of the Indians pealed upon their ears from the woods around them, followed by a sudden rush of the Indians and French, and immediately an indiscriminate slaughter of men and animals and destruction of property took place.

It is said, so fiendish was the desire for spilling of blood, both of men and animals, that the water of the brook became discolored with it, and from this cause acquired, and yet retains the name of the “bloody run.” The persons of the English party were sadly mutilated, and then thrown down the steep banks into the hole, as were such of the horses and oxen as had been killed, and likewise the wagons and much of the property.

Many years subsequent, after I had come to Lewiston, and previous to the war of 1812, with England, a man, whose name I now forget, passing over this flat, either with or soon after a wagon had gone along, which in its progress had run against and overturned the remnants of an old stump, he discovered something that drew his attention. And on making an examination he found a quantity of leaden balls; he gathered up some forty or fifty pounds and brought them to my father's house, who purchased them. Many is the squirrel and other game I have killed in my younger days, with these

balls, shot from an old German yager rifle ; which a gentleman who was stopping a few days at Lewiston, and to whom I had done some boyish favor, such as going hunting with him, securing and carrying his game, and observing my fondness for shooting, gave to me.

Of the whole English party but two escaped. One was a drummer boy, who was either thrown, or jumped down the bank into a tree top : his drum straps caught in the branches and arrested his fall ; he extricated himself from his perilous position, descended the tree, traversed the bottom of the hole, chasm or dell to its open side on the river, from whence and under cover of the river bank, he crept back to the landing at Lewiston. This man, Matthews was his name, was alive when I came to Lewiston, and resided near Captain Isaac Swazy's, an old New Jersey tory, on the bank of the river, about two miles from the present village of Niagara, in Canada ; and followed the business of making split bottom chairs. Mr. Joshua Fairbanks, now living at Lewiston, established himself at Chippawa, in Canada, in 1793, and was well acquainted with Matthews, for many years.

If I had not the positive evidence I have, that this man Matthews, who escaped from the massacre in 1763, was alive in 1807, the fact is not at all improbable nor anywise likely to be untrue. I well remember an old gentleman, Major Maxwell, (the brother of Colonel Hugh Maxwell, who served through the Revolutionary war, who came into western New-York in 1788 or 1789 as a surveyor in the employ of Mr. Phelps) about seventy years of age, a very intimate friend of General James Miller, who distinguished himself by his charge on the British cannon at Lundy's Lane, near the Falls, on the 25th of July 1814.

This Major Maxwell when quite a young man, was in the battle of Bloody Bridge, near Detroit, in July 1763, the time

Pontiac was besieging that place. This old gentleman at the time I knew him was hale and hearty, and was employed in our army as an assistant wagon or forage master in 1814; and while the army was in Canada that summer, he went into the country to procure forage, and was captured by the British. After the war, I understood he returned Michigan, and has been dead many years.

The other person, William Stedman, who was fortunate in making his escape, and the manner in which he effected it, is thus related: Being mounted on a very fleet mare, the bridle reins were seized by one or two Indians, and forced out of his hands, they intending to push him and his horse over the bank into the hole. One story says he took out his knife and cut the reins, another, that he cut the throat-latch and slipped the bridle from the animal's head, immediately clapped his spurs into his mare's sides, and under a shower of rifle balls from the Indians, struck off directly into the woods an easterly course, at a right angle with the river, and continued on until he came to a small stream called Gill creek. He then followed the course of this creek to where it discharges into the Niagara river about a mile above Fort Schlosser, and soon reached that place in safety.

Stedman afterwards went to England and died. Some time after his death, persons in this country, pretending to be his agents, laid claim to the whole district of country, from the Devil's Hole at the spot where he began his retreat from the massacre, taking his route through the woods to Gill creek, down the creek to the river, then following the course of the river to the place of starting, embracing the Falls and all the water power on the American side. It was pretended the Indians gave him this property, and that the gift was ratified by the British Government before the Revolution.

The reason assigned for this extraordinary gift, was, his

miraculous escape from a slaughter, in which it was supposed all his companions had become victims. That the Indians struck with such a remarkable intervention of the Great Spirit in his behalf, it was a clear indication to them that he was a highly favored being. That the Great Spirit in thus saving his life, and the extraordinary route he took in making his escape, made it manifest to their minds that the land thus encompassed by him was to be his, and accordingly gave it to him. For many years, and even down to quite a recent period this claim has been asserted, and great efforts have been made to have it established.

The appearance of the Devil's Hole has altered very much within the last forty years. Then it was a very deep chasm near the bottom of which a fine cool spring issued. I have several times descended to that spring. There was a tall cedar tree which grew out of the loose stones towards the bottom, it was very straight and close along side, and nearly reached the top of the bank. We used to creep down the bank and get into the top of this tree, and using the limbs, descend it like a ladder to its roots, then clamber still farther down over the loose rocks to the spring, keeping a sharp watch all the time against rattlesnakes, as there were a great many then in and about the rocks and loose stones. Pieces of old iron and parts of wagon hubs were often found near the bottom. In later days a saw mill has been built on "bloody run," near the hole, and in constructing the heavy stone wall around fort Niagara, since the last war, the large stones for it were taken from a quarry opened on the highest part of the bank around the hole. From this quarry large quantities of small stones, dirt, and other rubbish have been thrown down, the spring has been covered up, and the depth of the hole or chasm much reduced.

I have endeavored to trace the age of the large stone building called the mess house, in Fort Niagara. I remember hearing it said soon after I came to Lewiston, that it was not far from a hundred years old; and also recollect there was a stone in the front part with the year in which it was built cut into it. I wrote a letter to Sergeant Leffinan, who has charge of the post, to copy the date on the stone and send it to me. He writes that he has examined every part of the building but cannot find it, he says some old people about there tell him the date was 1725, which tallies well with the earliest accounts I had of its age. The building has been frequently whitewashed, and was much battered by shot during the last war, and the stone has probably been covered up or destroyed.

When I first came on to this frontier, traditionary stories were plenty in regard to scenes and events that had taken place on the banks of the Niagara river for a century previous. As I was young at that time, their recital only created an interest with me while they were being related. I did not fix them firmly in my mind and they are lost to me forever.

Nothing of a very remarkable character from the time of the massacre at the Devil's Hole occurred on this frontier, until after the commencement of the American revolution. Previous to which and subsequent to their obtaining possession of the country, the English had been very assiduous in their efforts to secure the confidence and good will of the Indians. Being at that time the only European power on this part of the continent, the Indians having none other to tamper with, gradually acquiesced in the government of the English. At length a strong friendship was established between them, and the Indians were ready and willing to do any thing that might be required of them. During the continuance of the revolutionary war, the influence which the English had over the

Indians, was the cause of much unnecessary blood-shed and suffering to the American frontier settlements of New York, Pennsylvania and Virginia. And subsequent to the close of the revolution in 1783, for many years, its effects were sensibly felt in the blood that was shed along the Ohio river, and in the now State of Kentucky.

Fort Niagara was a central and prominent point from which plans were laid, supplies furnished and expeditions started, to murder, devastate, and lay waste the country as far as possible. Minnisink in Orange County, Schoharie, Cherry Valley, the settlements on the Mohawk river, and other places in this State, and Wyoming in Pennsylvania, witnessed the power and clemency of the English, through their accredited agents, the Indian expeditions headed by British officers, from this post.

It became necessary for Congress to arrest these alarming and destructive expeditions: accordingly a large army under the command of General Sullivan, was sent into Western New York in the summer of 1779, to chastise the Indians, destroy their towns and means of subsistence. General Sullivan marched from Wyoming, in Pennsylvania, in July, to Tioga Point, in this State. Here he was joined by another large force on the 22d of August, headed by Gen. James Clinton, who came by the way of Cooperstown. The army then commenced its march up the Tioga river, and on the 29th of August, came to battle at Newtown, (now Elmira) with the combined forces of English and Indians, who had assembled and fortified themselves strongly at that place, in the hope of arresting its farther progress. A severe and decisive battle took place, in which the Indians and their allies were defeated—the loss on the part of General Sullivan was small, and that of the Indians could never be fully ascertained. But so severely had this day's work impressed the minds of the Indians with their utter inability of contending against General

Sullivan, that they never afterwards attempted to meet his army, although some skirmishing did take place with small parties.

Sullivan followed up his victory by moving forward into the country, destroying on his march the Indian settlement of Catharine Town, (named after an Indian Queen called Catharine) and others around the heads of the Cayuga and Seneca lakes. Continuing his route, he passed down between these lakes, and crossing the outlet at the Northern end of the Seneca lake, near where Geneva now stands, encamped his army at a place known as the Indian Castle, nearly two miles a little North of West from Geneva. From this point he sent out smaller expeditions and destroyed all the Indian settlements in that vicinity. On the 9th of September, a detachment of riflemen was sent up the West side of the Seneca lake to Cashong creek, the place of my nativity, distant seven miles from Geneva. At this place was a large Indian settlement, with extensive fields of corn growing, and great numbers of apple trees. The wigwams and corn were entirely destroyed, as was every other eatable substance and creature that could be found; large numbers of the apple trees were cut down, but many were left standing and uninjured.

The site of this Indian town, and about seven hundred acres of land in one body, my father, when about eighteen or nineteen year's of age, purchased not many years after Sullivan's destruction of the Town, from a Frenchman of the name of Poudre, who had married a squaw—for which the Indians gave him the land. In payment for this land he gave all the money and property he had, even to part of the clothing he had on his person. This purchase and sale was subsequently ratified by the State, and he was confirmed in the quiet possession. He met with great opposition in getting the purchase ratified. The great kindness and essential aid

rendered to him by Gov. George Clinton in this matter, he always remembered and spoke of most gratefully.

From the Indian Castle the army moved west and came as far as the flats at the head of Conesus lake, where it encamped. From this place a small detachment was sent forward during the night under the command of Lieutenant Boyd, with an Oneida Indian as a guide, to reconnoitre and obtain information. This party found the Indian village on the east side of the Genesee river, deserted by the Indians, they having retired to Little Beard's town on the opposite side. The party found two Indians, one they killed, and the other made his escape; and being unable to obtain all the information they sought, commenced their return march to the main camp. On their way back, and when within one or two miles of the camp, they were intercepted by a superior Indian force, and a severe and sanguinary fight ensued. Lieutenant Boyd and private Parker were taken prisoners, and nearly his whole party destroyed.

The prisoners were taken by the Indians to Little Beard's town and delivered over to Brandt, who was a Free Mason, and Boyd being one, he made an appeal to Brandt in a manner understood by the fraternity, and Brandt promised to save his life. Brandt being obliged to go away on some pressing business he placed the prisoners in charge of Col. Butler, an English officer. Butler made enquiries of him as to the number, situation and intentions of Sullivan's army, and upon Boyd's refusing to give him the information required, Butler delivered the prisoner over to the Indians, who subjected the Lieutenant to great torture. After tying him to a sapling, they made an opening in his abdomen, and taking out one of his intestines which they made fast to the sapling, they untied him and drove him round, until the whole of his intestines were drawn out, and finally put him to death by cutting

his head off. Parker did not undergo the tortures applied to Boyd, but his head was likewise cut off. In 1841, some citizens of Rochester, and others along the Genesee river, removed the remains of Lt. Boyd and his companions from the place where they were first interred, and deposited them in the Cemetery of Mount Hope, near Rochester.

Sullivan, with his army, passed on to the Genesee River, and crossed over. The Indians made no attempt to defend their place, Little Beardstown, but fled and left it altogether unprotected. He sent out detachments up and down the river, and in all directions where Indian settlements were. All the buildings were destroyed, the corn cut up, some burned and some thrown into the river; all the hogs, horses and cattle found were killed, fruit trees cut down, and every thing that could afford sustenance to a human being was destroyed. So complete was the desolation, that Mrs. Jemison, in the published account of her life, says, there was not a mouthful of any kind of sustenance left, not even enough to keep a child one day from perishing with hunger. A most severe winter followed; the ground was covered with snow to the depth of four or five feet; and many of the Indians died from cold and starvation, as also did much of the game in the woods.

Sullivan did not come on to the Buffalo Reservation, but returned from the Genesee River upon the same route he came into the country. On reaching a place near the south end of the Seneca Lake, since known as the "Horse Heads," many of the horses used by the army, suffering for want of forage, (everything of the kind being destroyed on his outward march,) became worn out, diseased, and unfit to travel. A great many were shot at this place; and in after years, when settlers began to come through that route, the number of horse heads found gave a name to the place.

No American troops ever appeared in this part of the State again, until the surrender by the English, of the American frontier fortresses, in 1796.

It is a singular fact, and the more striking because of its singularity, and one which speaks volumes in favor of the high character and honorable conduct of the early settlers of Western New York ; that, inasmuch as at the close of the Revolutionary War there were no good feelings existing between the Americans and Indians in this part of the State, and although the fort at Niagara was retained by the British in violation of the treaty of 1783, for thirteen years, not one drop of blood has been shed in battle between the whites and Indians from the time of the Revolution to the present.

It was my intention, originally, to have said something in relation to the purchase of Western New York by Phelps and Gorham ; the possessions of the Holland Land Company ; the Pultney and Hornby estates ; the different Indian treaties ; many particulars of the early settlement of Ontario County, and its progress through to Lake Erie ; the details of which, designed for the use of the future historian, might prove dry and uninteresting in a paper like this of mine ; I will therefore omit them. The leading reason for doing so, however, is this :

I lately paid the Honorable and venerable Augustus Porter a visit, and in a long and interesting conversation with him on this subject, he gave me the gratifying intelligence that he had made up his mind to write, and was then diligently engaged in drawing up, a full and detailed statement in relation to these matters, from his own personal knowledge ; and that it was his intention to deposit the manuscript in the archives of this Association. I can, therefore, congratulate this body upon soon receiving a paper from this gentleman, of the highest interest and use, and much more extensive on these subjects than can be derived from any other source.

This will soon be followed by a history of the Holland Purchase, by O. Turner, Esq., who is now industriously engaged in procuring his materials from old residents, some of whom are now settled in the far west. Mr. Turner's history will be composed principally of unwritten materials, traditional stories, personal events and reminiscences, together with biographical sketches of some of the early settlers; which, incorporated with what has already been published, will give this work of Mr. Turner's, great interest with the descendants of the early pioneers, and will throw much light upon the toil and hardships endured, the simplicity of the habits and manners of the people in those days, their indomitable energy and perseverance, and many other interesting matters without a knowledge of which, it is impossible truly to appreciate the noble character of the early settlers of Western New York. A copy of this work will also be deposited with this Association.

It is to be hoped that others will be induced to contribute their personal knowledge of early incidents; and that the archives of this Association will become the depository of every fact and circumstance that will tend to illustrate the history of Western New York, and its early inhabitants.

Although for the reasons given, I refrain from entering much into any details on these matters, I will nevertheless give you some few particulars and reminiscences obtained from my father, Benjamin Barton, who first came to the Niagara frontier in 1787; from my mother, who came to Geneva in 1789; from Hon. Augustus Porter, who came into Ontario County the same year; and from my own personal knowledge. In detailing them I shall be somewhat discursive, and not very regardful as to the order of time in which they occurred. Before treating any farther of events in Western New York, I will touch upon matters transacted in another part of our

country — a portion of country which has, now is, and will always continue to exert no small influence upon our present and future prosperity.

It is well known, that in violation of the treaty of 1783, when the English Government was compelled to acknowledge the Independence of her revolted colonies, the United States of America, it retained and kept military possession of all the fortresses on the American side of the great Lakes. Oswego, Niagara, Miami, (opposite Perrysburgh,) Detroit and Michilimackinac, were amongst the forts wrongfully withheld. The possession of these fortresses gave them the entire control of the numerous Indian tribes inhabiting this extensive district of country, and kept them almost continually in a state of war against the American settlements on and near the Ohio river. They instilled into the minds of the Indians that the Americans had no right to the country north of that river, and that by a combined action of all the Indian powers they could restrain the Americans to the south side. Great efforts were made by the Indians to accomplish this, in a continual struggle to break up and destroy all settlements and to prevent their extending.

For the purpose of giving security to these frontier settlements, and to break up this powerful Indian confederacy, the United States sent several armies or large bodies of men against them. Three of which, under Col. Crawford, Generals Harmer and St. Clair, were defeated and some of them nearly destroyed by the Indians. It was not until the great and decisive victory of Gen. Wayne* over the combined Indian forces, aided by Englishmen painted like savages, on the banks of the Maumee, in August, 1794, that any thing like

* The Indians called Gen. Wayne the "Wind," because in the battle of the 20th of August, 1794, with them, they said he was like the whirlwind, that tore up and drove every thing before it.

peace and safety was secured to the settlers in the country then called the North Western Territory.

This battle was fought in sight of a British fort, from which the Indians had been armed and supplied with the means of fighting; and most probably a promise had been given of assistance in the coming fight, or protection within its walls in case of defeat. But when the conflict raged too strong for them, and when Wayne with his victorious legions pressed on and overthrew them, the Indians fled from the field of their defeat, and sought admission into the fort. But the danger of personal safety to themselves, of their false friends the English, if they openly interfered, caused the gates to be shut against them, and the Indians were left to the mercy of the conqueror.

From this moment the illusion which had obscured the minds of the Indians gave way, and it appeared plain to them, they were engaged against a power over which they could not triumph; and that their friends and advisers, the English, when the times of adversity arrived, had not the power to aid them. This victory was followed by the treaty of Greenville in 1795, the dismemberment of the great confederacy forever, and secured peace and safety to the inhabitants of that country.

It is impossible to realize the importance of this victory, or do justice to the gallant General who achieved it, without understanding the peculiar circumstances of the times. The great lakes and all of our frontier military posts in the occupancy of a foreign government, who had withheld them from us in violation of treaty stipulations for many years — the numerous and powerful Indian nations throughout the whole west, decidedly and openly hostile to our people, were under the influence and supplied with the means of war by the English, who never hesitated to urge them on — coupled with the fact,

that the Indians had already defeated and nearly destroyed three American armies, had General Wayne failed on this occasion, the whole country would have been a scene of blood. This victory forms an important era in the history of the Western country.

A long time previous to and during the war of 1812, between England and the United States, Tecumseh, one of the greatest of Indian warriors and statesmen, made great efforts to revive this confederacy, but the lesson taught the Indians in 1794, had not been forgotten; and Tecumseh could only succeed partially in his darling project. In later years, when the fierce warrior Black Hawk undertook the same thing, but on a much more limited scale, in Northern Illinois, he could not succeed even in securing the aid of the whole of his own tribe or nation. But he was only a warrior—bloody and fierce to be sure—and had none of the statesman-like qualities of the Pontiacs and Tecumsehs of former days, and is not entitled to notice on the same page of history with them.

Within a few years after the victory of General Wayne, the Government of the United States established garrisons and trading posts or factories as they were termed, in different parts of the Western Country, for security as well as the distributing of the annuities promised the Indians under the the Treaty of Greenville. One of the factories was at Lower Sandusky, a picketed work, which afterwards formed Fort Stephenson, where Colonel Croghan, then a captain, highly distinguished himself in September, 1813, by defeating with a small force, General Proctor with a large number of British regular troops, and a powerful body of Indian auxiliaries. Another was at Fort Wayne, on the Wabash river, another at Detroit,*

*This military post was delivered up by the English, under the Treaty of 1794, to Captain Moses Porter, of the United States Army, who with 65 men took possession on

another at Michilimackinac, and in 1804 Chicago* was occupied.

From a report made to Congress in 1788, we learn the the 11th July, 1796. Colonel J. F. Hamtramck arrived on the 13th, from the Maumee Rapids, with more troops, and assumed the command. The township above and adjoining the city of Detroit, is named after this gentleman. His son is now in the service of his country as Colonel of the Virginia Volunteers, and is in command at Saltillo, in Mexico. Scarcely a vestige of the old fort is now remaining; every thing has been swept away by the rapid growth of that city; and the spot where it stood, and which has been the scene of many a bloody strife, is now covered with beautiful buildings, and is the abode of elegance and wealth.

Captain Porter was a sergeant in the revolutionary army, and was engaged in the bloody battle of Fort Mifflin, or Mud Island, in the Delaware river, in 1777, soon after General Howe obtained possession of Philadelphia. In this affair the Americans lost 250 in killed and wounded out of a force of 650 men, before they could be driven from their position. Lieutenant Colonel Samuel Smith, afterwards General and commander at the battle of Baltimore, in September, 1814, when General Ross, of the British Army was killed and their army defeated; and for many years United States Senator for Maryland, commanded the fort on that occasion. Captain Porter was promoted to a majority, and in 1800 commanded at Fort Niagara. About this time he opened the road from the brow of the mountain to Ska-joc-quad-da Creek, known as the military road, and constructed bridges across this and the Tonawanta Creek. He left this frontier in the winter of 1806, and marched with his command to Pittsburgh, for service down the Mississippi, during Burr's operations in that quarter. In the war of 1812 with England, he was a colonel, and succeeded General Alexander Smythe in command on the Niagara frontier during the winter of 1812 and 1813. His head quarters for some time, were at the log house of Mr. Rogere, at Williamsville, on the west side of the creek, where the largest portion of the troops were cantoned in log huts, on the site of that beautiful village, which was then densely covered with heavy timber. He rose to the rank of Brigadier General and died some few years after the war. He sustained a good reputation in the army, and was always considered an efficient and brave soldier, and kind hearted man.

*The military works erected by the United States at this place, consisted of a few wooden block-houses picketed in, with other buildings sufficient to secure the Indian annuities and military stores, and quarters for a Captain's command. In July, 1832, during the Black Hawk War, the few families and traders here, numbering in all about one hundred persons, had to depend upon these works for shelter, in the daily expectation of being attacked by this Chief and his warriors. At this time (1848) this little village and isolated band of people, have grown to a well built and flourishing city, numbering more than 16,000 inhabitants. A large canal, of about one hundred miles in length, terminating at Chicago, is completed, during this present month of April, connecting Lake Michigan with the Illinois river; thus forming a steamboat and canal communication between the great Lakes and the Mississippi river.

This is not the only place of note that has risen like magic, on the western shore of Lake Michigan. Other towns and places, whose beginning were subsequent to 1832: attract the eye of the traveller. Milwaukee, with a busy population, over 14,000, Little Fort, Southport, Racine, Sheboygan and some others, numbering from 1000 to upwards of 3000 souls, beautify and adorn the bank, while inland, numerous brisk villages are springing up in all directions.

number of inhabitants in the then North Western Territory, now forming the States of Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan and the Territory of Wisconsin, embracing a surface more than twice the size of Great Britain and Ireland, and capable of sustaining a population equally as dense.

That report says that the villages on the Mississippi or near there, contained the following families: Kaskaskia, 80; Prairie de Roche 12; Fort St. Philip 5; Kehokia 50; Fort Chartres 5. St. Vincents, Detroit and some other places on the Lakes contained probably, not much more than an equal number. These were all French, or Canadian settlements. The total population did not exceed three thousand. The same district of country now contains but little if any, less than five millions of inhabitants.

The year 1794 was remarkable for another event of great importance to us as a nation, and of the greatest possible benefit to the whole Western Country. That year a treaty known as "Jay's treaty," was concluded between the Governments of England and the United States; under which, the English agreed to surrender the military posts on the American side of the lakes. The surrender however, did not take place until the spring or summer of 1796; and from that time only, have we used or had the privilege of using our great lakes; over which now floats a commerce of millions of dollars.

I have now reached that point of time when the germ of the greatness which we behold in Western New York, and the great West, go where we will, was first laid; and I ask your attention to the small and recent beginning of every thing around us.

To show you how averse the English were to allowing the free range of this frontier or the use of the Lakes to our people, I will relate some of their acts. In 1787, the year my father

first came to the Niagara frontier, at which time all the white settlements were on the Canada side of the river, he said it was the practice of the commanding officer of Fort Niagara, to furnish the Indians with cards having on them sealing wax bearing a particular impression; and directed them if they found any white men rambling about the country who had not such a pass or card, they were British soldiers deserting, and they must take them up and bring them to the Fort;—that he was once or twice thus arrested himself, and at other times had to dodge and run away from drunken and troublesome Indians.

In 1789, John Fellows, of Sheffield, Massachusetts, started from Schenectady with a boat, its cargo mostly tea and tobacco, with the design of going to Canada to trade. On reaching Oswego, the commanding officer refused him permission to pass that place. Fellows returned with his boat and cargo up the Oswego river to Seneca river, up that into the Canandaigua outlet as far as where Clyde is. Here he built a small log building (long known as the block-house) to secure his goods in, while he was engaged in bushing out a sled road to Sodus bay on lake Ontario. He then went to Geneva and got a yoke or two of cattle, hauled his boat and property across, and in this frail conveyance embarked with his goods, and pushed across the lake. He met with a ready sale for his tea and tobacco and did well. He re-crossed in the same boat and landed at Iron-dequoit creek. This boat was afterwards purchased and used by Judge Porter in traversing the shore of Lake Ontario, when making the survey of the Phelps and Gorham purchase.

This was the *first* American craft that ever floated on the waters of the great lakes, now filled with magnificent steam-boats and sail vessels, fully employed in carrying on the immense commerce which passes over them.

In 1793, Judge Porter informs me, that he was employed

by two men in New York, who owned a large tract of land lying between Ithaca and Owego on the Susquehanna river, and also a ten thousand acre tract on the St. Lawrence, to explore it for them. That he crossed from Salisbury, in Connecticut, to Catskill, and with a pack on his back pushed through the country to where Ithaca now is. He explored the large tract of land, when he, with a man named Hull, came down the shore of Cayuga lake three or four miles, where they bought a canoe from a Dutchman. In this canoe they passed down the lake and through the different rivers to Oswego, for the purpose of going into the St. Lawrence to visit the other tract of land. He was refused permission to pass the fort at Oswego, and as there was no other route to get to this land but by the lake, he had to relinquish that part of his job, and he and his companion voyaged to Schenectady in that canoe, where he sold it.

And as late as 1796, and only a few days before they gave up forever the Fort at Oswego, did the English refuse permission to the boats with the surveyors and others in the employ of the Connecticut Land Company, who were going to survey the Western Reserve in Ohio, to pass that place. The boats were under the charge of Joshua Stow, uncle of Judge Stow of this city. Determined not to be delayed, he took the boats during the day a mile or two up the river, and at night silently ran them past the fort into the lake, and pursued his way to Fort Niagara, where he found the fort in our possession. The boats and their loading were conveyed across the portage at Queenstown, on the Canada side of the river, and came on to Buffalo.

The first American troops who took possession of Fort Niagara that summer were under the command of Capt. Buff, with a detachment of artillery, accompanied by Capt. Littlefield with part of a company of infantry. More troops arrived

in December, and in the spring of 1797, the command was assumed by Major Revardy, a French officer in our service.

My father's first visit to the Niagara frontier was in the summer of 1787. He was employed to aid in driving a drove of cattle and sheep from the Western part of New Jersey, which had been sold to the English to supply their troops and Indian department; this being the best market the country then afforded. At that time there was a small cluster of Mohawk Indians residing a little over a mile east of the present village of Lewiston; the first night of his arrival he slept in that Indian town, and, at the period of his death, was the owner of the farm where formerly stood this Indian settlement. The farm is now known as the "Mohawk Farm."

The late father of Colonel Silas Hopkins, nearly seventy-five years of age, now living in Cambria, Niagara County, was one of the party. They came by way of Wyoming, up the Susquehanna, between the Lakes Cayuga and Seneca, and through to Niagara by the Tonawanta Reservation. On reaching the Genesee River, at Avon, near the spot where Mrs. Berry, the mother of Mrs. E. C. Hickox, of this city, subsequently kept a ferry across the river, the party stopped some time for the purpose of feeding and recuperating the animals; and for their own comfort and convenience, put up a small log building which was among the first, if not the very first building, erected by white men between Fort Schuyler (now Utica,) and Lake Erie, on the line of the old state or stage road between the two points. On his return to New Jersey he came up the river from Niagara, on the Canada side, and remained a few days at Buffalo, which then only contained two or three log huts in the vicinity where the Mansion House stands. For the services rendered his employer on this occasion he received eight dollars, and thought himself well compensated.

He returned the next year as far as Geneva, and from that period was a resident of Western New-York, until the time of his death; which occurred at Lewiston, in June, 1842, to which place he removed with his family, in June, 1807. The family of James Latta, my grandfather, on my mother's side, came to Geneva, on the 14th of September, 1789,—my mother, now living, was nearly sixteen years of age. The family removed from New Windsor, on the Hudson River. They came to Albany in a sloop, crossed over to Schenectady in wagons, ascended the Mohawk River, as far as Fort Stanwix, (now Rome,) hauled their small boats over the portage, into Wood Creek, down that into the Oneida Lake. They reached that on the evening of a clear moonlight night, and my grandfather paid his men extra wages, to pass over the lake to Fort Brewerton, during the night; fearing a storm would arise in the morning and detain them several days, as was frequently the case. The route then, was down the Oneida River to Three River Point, then up the Seneca River to the outlet of Seneca Lake, then up that to Geneva. The voyage from Schenectady consumed seventeen days, during the greater part of which time it rained.

At this time, there was no mill in the country nearer than Newtown, (now Elmira,) fifty miles distant, and this one had no bolt; the flour ground there, required to be sifted before using it; provisions were brought into the country by water, up the Mohawk in small boats, and from the Susquehanna River on pack horses. It was some time before mills were erected in many places. The first one she remembers was Waggoner's, on the outlet of the Crooked Lake, near where Penn Yan now is. This place was originally settled by emigrants from Pennsylvania and the Eastern States, in nearly equal numbers, and my father has the credit of giving it a name. Being at that place on a certain time when the people

were talking much about giving their place a name, and as there was much difficulty in finding one to suit all parties, he proposed Penn Yan or Yank, as most descriptive of the people and where they came from; being half Yankees, and half Pennamites, as they were called; the oddity of the name and its expressive meaning took with the people, and hence the name of Penn Yan.

Before mills were built, almost every family kept one or two mortars or homminy blocks, for pounding corn in. These blocks were frequently, amongst the people in the country, made in the stump of a tree near the house. They would cut the stump square and then burn or dig a cavity in the top, deep enough to receive the corn; and to relieve the labor the pounder was frequently used by means of a swing. Provisions of course were scarce and dear, there being no money in those times; and the people lived mostly on corn, pumpkins and beans, and killed deer and bears for meat. They were kind and friendly to each other, and bore their sufferings patiently, rendering to each other all the assistance they could. The early settlers were a superior class of men, of great physical strength and superior intellects, capable of doing and enduring every thing—and their powers were frequently taxed to the utmost.

I will relate a story, which will show the simplicity of manners which characterised the people for many years, as well as the manner in which parties of recreation were sometimes formed in those days.

My father was a long time employed by the Surveyor General, the late Simon DeWitt, in surveying the military tract*

*This tract of land was set apart and appropriated for military services rendered during the revolutionary war by the New York State troops. To show the limited geographical knowledge, possessed by the Legislature in those days, of even the central part of the State, I will give an extract from the act describing the boundaries of this tract.

5th Session of the Legislature of the State of New York, held at Poughkeepsie, in Dutchess County. GEORGE CLINTON, Governor. Passed July 25, 1782.

lying east of Ontario County, to and including Onondaga. From his great industry and availing himself of every honorable manner to better his condition, and by the practice of rigid economy in his expenditures, he had become comparatively forehanded. He determined to build a better house than the

"That all the lands, situate, lying and being in the County of Tryon, bounded on the North by lake Ontario, the Onondaga river, and the Oneida lake; on the West by a line drawn from the mouth of the Great Sodus or Assorodus Creek, through the most westerly inclination of the Seneca lake; on the South by an east and west line drawn through the most southerly inclination of the Seneca lake; and on the East by a line drawn from the most westerly bounds of the Oneida or Tuscarora country, on the Oneida lake, through the most westerly inclination of the west bounds of the Oneida or Tuscarora country; shall be, and the same is hereby declared to be set apart, &c., &c."

It is a little surprising that the name of Tuscarora should have been applied to any part of our State. This tribe of Indians were comparatively new comers in the State, were but few in numbers, having been nearly destroyed in their wars with the whites in North Carolina; from whence they emigrated in 1712, into the western part of New York. They were kindly received by the five nations of Iroquois, and admitted as a distinct nation into the confederacy afterwards known as the Six Nations. Their first settlement was with the Oneidas. At the time of the last great sale in 1797, of the extreme western part of New York by the Indians to Robert Morris, amongst other places reserved by the Indians, a small tract of land, known as the Tuscarora reservation, a few miles from Lewistown, in Niagara County, was one. Here the whole tribe congregated; subsequently the Holland Land Company donated them two square miles; and in 1804, they purchased from the Company upwards of four thousand acres more.

The following short historical sketch, will shew why they left North Carolina:—

"In 1710, a large number of German emigrants arrived in this country, and settled in North Carolina. Two years after their arrival, the Tuscaroras, Corees, and other tribes of Indians, formed a deep conspiracy for the extermination of the English settlers. Having fortified the chief town in the Tuscarora nation, for the security of their own families, the different tribes met at this place, to the number of 1200 warriors, and laid the horrible plot, which was concerted and executed with stability and great secrecy. From this place of rendezvous they sent out small parties, which entered the settlements by different roads, under the mask of friendship. When the night agreed on had arrived, they entered the houses of the settlers, and demanded provisions; and feigning displeasure, fell upon them, and murdered men, women, and children, without distinction. About Roanoke, 137 persons perished in the massacre. A few persons escaping, gave the alarm to their neighbors the next morning, and thus prevented the entire destruction of the colony.

"Governor Craven, of South Carolina, as soon as he heard of this massacre, immediately sent Col. Barnwell, with 600 militia and 300 friendly Indians, against these savages. Marching through a hideous wilderness, Barnwell came up with the enemy, and attacked them with great effect. In this action he killed 300 Indians, and took about 100 prisoners. The survivors fled to their fortified town, where Col. Barnwell surrounded them, killed a great number, and compelled the remainder to sue for peace. It is estimated that in this expedition nearly a thousand of the Tuscaroras were killed, wounded, and taken prisoners."—*Holmes' Annals*.

log cabin in which I was born. He commenced in 1796 or 1797, the erection of a large square two story frame house, and from its peculiar and favorable locality and beautiful site, on the travelled road from Geneva to Bath, in Steuben county, supposed it might be wanted in time for a tavern, and had a large ball room made in it. Owing to adverse circumstances, one of which was the failure of the contractor, he lost three hundred dollars, a large sum at that time. Another was, that his lumber after being well dried and fit for use, caught fire in the kiln and was destroyed. These retarded its completion for several years. At length it was finished, and being the only house for several miles around of a suitable size for the purpose, the master workman and his joiners, together with some other young men in the neighborhood, were desirous of having a house warming and spinning bee. That year he had grown an extraordinary crop of flax, and the young men said if he would let them have the frolic, they would hackle and dress the flax, get the fiddlers, collect the girls, and do all they could to lighten the burthen on him. He gave his permission—they turned in, dressed the flax, and then making up seventy-two half pound bunches, put them in bags and scattered them round the country for several miles, amongst the girls, as cards of invitation.

In those days, there were no pianos and guitars in the country, and the girls made music on spinning wheels, and the notes they practised upon were flax and wool. The flax was to be spun into threads of a certain number, and on the evening of the party, each girl was to bring her skein of thread. Those who lived on roads leading direct, came in wagons. Others, who lived in the woods, where some of the prettiest girls were found, mounted a horse behind a young man, with a blanket to sit upon, dressed in their every day apparel, with woollen stockings and strong shoes on. They

would dash through the woods on some trail, through brooks, and over every obstacle in their way, carrying their ball-dress and skein of thread in a bundle, in their hand. A few minutes at the toilet put them in a condition for the ball-room. Others, living only a mile or two away, thought it no great task to come on foot. In the ball-room, their rosy cheeks, their sparkling eyes and blooming health, gave pleasure to all who beheld them; and their vigorous systems, strengthened by hard daily labor, enabled them to dance and enjoy it, and with life and spirit would they skip through the dance, like the young fawns of their own woods. The supper was prepared by my mother, and well, too, from the products of the farm, and with the addition of coffee, tea, sugar and some light wine, was all that was necessary or desired. Information reaching Geneva, of the party, about thirty of the elite of that place came down and joined heartily in the pleasures going on. As no barn could hold the horses, they were picketed around the wagons and fences, and plenty of hay spread before them. As daylight began to appear, the girls would doff their ball dresses, and having again donned the homespun, disappear for their homes in the woods.

In 1789, Ontario was set off from Montgomery as a county. It embraced all the territory lying between the Seneca Lake on the East, Lake Erie on the West, Lake Ontario on the North, and Pennsylvania on the South, and is now subdivided into fourteen counties, which are:—Steuben, Ontario, Yates, Allegany, Cattaraugus, Chautauque, Erie, Niagara, Orleans, Wyoming, Genesee, Livingston, Monroe and Wayne.

In 1801, and for two or three years, my father was the Sheriff of Ontario County, embracing all the territory now included in the last named thirteen counties.

The first town meeting was held at Canandaigua, in the spring of 1790. That year the State road from Utica to

Canandaigua was opened, the State gave a township of land towards the expense, and a large number of men were set to work, but before it was done the number increased to two or three hundred, by emigrants coming on with teams, who could go no further than the road was opened, and turned in and helped cut their way through.

On the 1st of July, 1790, the first census under the Constitution of the United States was taken. General Amos Hall, of Bloomfield, was the Marshal for taking the census in Western New York. Ontario County then contained the following number of families and persons, and the townships in which they resided. This table was made in 1820; some of the townships may have received other names since that time, and some that had none then have since received names:

In 1790 there were, in			<i>Fam.</i>	<i>Per.</i>
Township No. 2,	Range 1,			
do. 7,	do. 1,	now Painted Post,.....	10	59
do. 8,	do. 1,	Milo,.....	11	65
do. 9,	do. 1,	Benton,.....	3	25
do. 10,	do. 1,	Seneca,.....	10	60
do. 11,	do. 1,	do. Geneva,.....	8	55
do. 8,	do. 2,	Phelps,.....	2	11
do. 10,	do. 2,	Middlesex,.....	7	38
do. 11,	do. 2,	N. Gorham,.....	6	14
do. 11,	do. 3,	E. Farmington,.....	2	4
do. 10,	do. 3,	W. do.	12	55
do. 12,	do. 3,	Canandaigua,,.....	18	106
do. 8,	do. 4,	W. Palmyra,.....	4	14
do. 9,	do. 4,	S. Bristol,.....	4	20
do. 10,	do. 4,	N. do.	3	13
do. 10,	do. 4,	E. Bloomfield,.....	10	65
do. 11,	do. 5,	W. do.	7	26
do. 9,	do. 5,	Victor,.....	4	20
do. 11,	do. 5,	Richmond,.....	1	2
do. 12,	do. 5,	Mendon,.....	2	10
do. 13,	do. 5,	Pittsford,.....	8	28
do. 10,	do. 6,	Brighton,.....	4	20
do. 11,	do. 6,	Lima,.....	4	23
do. 12,	do. 6,	Rush,.....	9	56
do. 7,	do. 7,	Henrietta,.....	1	8
do. 9,	do. 7,	Sparta,.....	1	5
do. 1,	do. 7,	Geneseo,.....	8	34
do. 2,	do. 2, }	Erwin,.....	11	59
do. 3,	do. 2, }			
do. 4,	do. 5, }	Canisteo,.....	10	50
do. 5,	do. 6, }			
do. 10,	do. 2,	Wayne,.....	1	9
	do. 7,	Avon,.....	10	66
		Caledonia,.....	10	44
		Indian Lands—Leicester,.....	4	17

The same district of country now contains over eight hundred thousand inhabitants.

I was born in 1795, and I do not believe there are fifty persons in this country who are as old as I am, and are natives of the old county of Ontario. I have witnessed great changes in the country during my short life; I have followed settlements and civilization from the banks of the Seneca Lake to the Mississippi, which it has overleaped. It is pursuing its course westward to the shore of the great Pacific Ocean.

In a recent conversation with Judge Porter, he informed me that he came to Canandaigua in 1789, with two Schenectady boats, each one capable of carrying fourteen barrels, and four men to man each one, to get them around the different falls and rapids which obstructed the navigation in those days. These boats they succeeded in getting to Canandaigua, to shew that the thing could be done. Afterwards they stopped five or six miles down the outlet, at a place now called Manchester, where the railroad crosses the stream.

Near Fort Stanwix (now Rome,) a saw-mill was built on Wood creek, the dam of which threw back the water and formed a large pond. The small boats used in 1789, and afterwards until the canal and locks were built connecting the Mohawk and Wood Creek, were hauled over; and when three or four were ready, the gate of the dam was then opened and the water rushing in raised the creek so that boats starting with the high flood reached Oneida Lake with much ease. In 1792, in going down this creek, he overtook a party who had left in the former flood, but too late to get through, and there first saw the late Mr. James Wadsworth, of Geneseo, up to his knees in the water, getting his boat afloat.

The first American vessel built on Lake Erie, was constructed at Four Mile Creek near Erie, Pa., in 1797, and was called the Washington. She navigated the Lake that season,

and was then sold to a man in Canada, who took her round the portage to Queenstown, from whence she sailed for Kingston, but was never heard of after leaving the Niagara river.*

The first American vessel built on Lake Ontario, was at Hanford's landing, three miles below Rochester, in 1798, by Eli Granger, (of thirty tons burthen,) and was called the *Jemima*. From this time to the commencement of the war of 1812, I have the names of a great many vessels that were on the lakes, with the history of many of them. Many were lost by storms, and several were captured by the British, during the war, and burnt; so that at the time that peace was restored, very few vessels were on the lakes, except such as had been used by the Government during the war.

In 1816, the steam boat Ontario was built by Eli Lusher and his associates, at Sackets Harbor, on Lake Ontario; and the steam boat Walk-in-the-water, for Gilbert and J. B. Stewart and others, at Black Rock, in 1818. This was the first use of steam on these lakes.

In 1796, the only white persons living on the Western Reserve, in Ohio, consisted of a French family at Sandusky bay. And in 1811, after a very tempestuous passage (in the schooner *Catharine*, afterwards the *Somers*, in Commodore Perry's fleet,) of nineteen days over the lake, when I first landed on the Peninsular point in that bay, there was no person living where the city of Sandusky now stands—the

*The American settlements at Erie, commenced in 1795. Capt. William Lee, in a small sail and row boat carried up that summer the family of Col. Reed, grandfather of Gen. Charles M. Reed. Several families commenced settling the place that season; during the same time, the town was laid out by a party of surveyors under the protection of a company of Pennsylvania Militia, commanded by General Irvin of Carlisle.—Col. Reed, entertained in his marquee, his house not being ready to occupy, Judah Colt, Joshua Fairbanks and Augustus Porter, Esqrs., who visited him that summer.

In December, 1796, Gen. Wayne, commander in Chief of the American Army, when returning from Detroit, was attacked with a fit of the gout and died at this place. He was buried near the spot where the old block house stands, on the bank of the Lake. In 1809, his remains were taken up and removed by his son to Chester, in Pennsylvania, and deposited in St. David's Church yard.

only building in it was a log hut, where an old Indian had, or did then live, called "OGONSE," and this was the name of the place.

I was then in the employ of my brother-in-law, Captain Sheldon Thompson, now of this city, bound south of the Sciota river, with a quantity of goods and salt, to purchase hogs, which were to be killed and packed on the Peninsula, near the lake. No large vessels had, at that time, been known to enter that bay, and Captain Tucker did not venture to make the attempt, as the weather was cold and stormy, with some snow flying—it being the last days of October. He ran his vessel as near the shore as was prudent, and landed the loading on the beach, from whence it was rolled far enough back, to be out of the reach of the swells of the lake.

The few people residing on the Peninsula, in four or five log buildings, were suffering from the effects of the fever and ague, and had a most ghastly appearance. They had but few comforts and none of the luxuries of life. At that time they were without flour and tea. They made bread from corn meal; the corn on the ear was first put into a large kettle and boiled until it had swelled out and softened the kernels, and was then grated. The graters were made by breaking a tin lantern to pieces and nailing them on a board. Sage was used for tea. Meat was plenty; all it required to get this, was to shoot down a hog; there were many running in the woods, fat from the quantities of mast they fed upon. I soon improved the living by getting out some tea and sugar, and taking some powder and shot, soon killed ducks (the bay was then full of them,) enough daily, to supply the family where I stopped, as long as I remained with them.

Capt. Thompson soon joined me at this place; he came up the lake on horseback. From the place where the goods

were landed on the beach, we conveyed them in a boat to Lower Sandusky. Here the United States had a factory or trading house for distributing to the Indians their annuities; it was then under the charge of Judge Samuel Tupper, who afterwards resided and died in this city. This trading establishment was enclosed by picket work, and afterwards formed Fort Stephenson, where Colonel Croghan severely defeated the British and Indians in 1813. A few white squatters lived around here, who subsisted principally on corn and game in the woods, and fish caught in the Sandusky river. We had left a number of men on the Peninsula, to put up log buildings for slaughtering, smoking and packing the pork and hams, and coopers to manufacture the barrels. These men I brought up the lake in the vessel with me.

At Lower Sandusky we fortunately met with four large wagons, drawn by four horses each, from the Mad River country. These, I believe, were the first that had ever come through. They were hired to convey our goods through to Delaware, where we intended to stop.

The road to Tymoctec Creek, 31 or 32 miles, through thick woods, had just been opened and there was no house the whole distance. Three miles beyond Tymoctee was a cluster of log huts called Negro town, inhabited by Indians, except an old Negro called "Tom," and his family, and a white man named Wright, who was married to old Tom's daughter. He was a silversmith, and made silver work for the Indians. Here commenced the openings or prairies, which continued to the little Sciota river. These openings had clusters of bushes and trees that appeared like and were called islands. Near one of these I was shown the spot where Colonel Crawford was said to have been defeated, and the tree was pointed out to me under which he was taken prisoner. He was burned to death at the Indian town on

the Tymoctee, four or five miles westerly from Negro town. Three or four miles from Negro town we came to two log buildings where an old Indian named Winne Hankie, a kind and hospitable old man, lived. From this until I passed the Little Sciota, I found no building or human being.

The river fortunately was low enough for the wagons to ford it with their loading, without being under the necessity of building rafts or floats to carry them over. We now entered thick woods, the road being very bad, and in four or five miles came to a small Welch settlement in the township of Radnor. From this place we soon reached Delaware. The country was heavily timbered allround for many miles and the settlements were in detachments in different parts. Columbus was not yet established as the seat of the State Government.

After putting up our goods in an unfinished brick building, built for a dwelling house, Mr. Thompson went into the several settlements and employed agents to buy hogs and corn to fatten them. In payment the agents drew orders on me at the store. The hogs were very wild in the woods and quite fat from the nuts and the acorns which they found. After buying them we put them into pens and fed them six or eight weeks to harden the meat. When in a proper condition nearly two hundred were brought in at a time from the different agencies to Delaware, and put together in a lot of two or three acres. Before starting the drove for the Lake shore, the drivers, who well understood the character of Ohio hogs in those days, would arm themselves with strong clubs and go into the lot and drive them round as hard as they could to tire them down so that they would drive well. With all this precaution we lost a number from each drove. They would break out and run through the woods faster than man or horse could pursue. During the winter we drove eight or nine hundred. As there were no settlements on the road to get corn to feed them, we

had to send wagons along carrying it with them. Mr. Thompson went himself with two droves. That winter was colder than usual, and a good deal of snow fell. In crossing the plains, where the cold was most severely felt, the drivers at night would make up log fires, and after eating their supper, roll themselves up in a blanket, lie down before the fires and go to sleep. The great heat from the fire and the warmth of their heads, which, getting into the snow while asleep, caused it to melt; many of the drivers wore cues or long hair; this would settle in the snow, and towards daylight, after the fires began to go out, a cold blast of wind coming over the plains would freeze the snow and their hair in it, and they had to be chopped loose before they could get up.

I remained in Delaware until the last of April, 1812. I left that place with four large teams carrying property we had purchased, and eight or ten cows which I had to drive, with an old crippled negro for an assistant. While with the wagons our provisions were carried in them. On reaching Negro town I found the Tymoctee creek too high for the wagons to cross, much rain having fallen. After waiting two days for the water to fall, without success, and directing the wagons to follow as soon as they could, the old negro and myself took each a loaf of bread and a piece of pork, which we put into a blanket and carried on our backs, and thus started with the cows for Lower Sandusky. I got two Indians to aid us in swimming the cows across and then carry us over in a canoe. The cows went very slowly, and night soon overtook us in the wilderness. We stopped, made a fire by flint and steel, and ate our supper, and then laid down to sleep, the cows feeding close around us. It was a long time before we could get to sleep, the woods seemed full of wolves which kept up a terrible howling and not far away. I had a small horn of powder, but no gun, and the negro said it would

keep the wolves off, if we should scatter some gunpowder around and flash it, and that the smell of it would frighten them away. We did so, but it did not start them nor stop their noise, they kept it up until near daylight; when the wild turkeys began to gobble in the woods, and they made nearly as much noise. In the morning we collected our cows and started, and after traveling two days and lying in the woods two nights we got through. On the way we had to wade a good many streams, the water coming up to our middle. I caught a bad cold, and was nearly exhausted. At Sandusky they gave me a sweating. I was laid on the floor with a large blanket fastened down at the corners over me, given plenty of hot herb tea to drink, hot stones were put under the blanket and a large quantity of clothing over me. The perspiration ran most profusely from me, and I thought I should drown. I hallooed to get up, but more hot drink and more hot stones were applied. After several hours I was let up, free from pain and as well as ever.

A boat was sent up from the Lake for me and the property I had with me. When we started to go down the river, only 36 miles, we expected to get through that night, and carried only one day's provision with us. On getting to the head of the bay, a hard north wind was blowing, and we could not cross over that day nor during the night. We ate up for supper all we had, and next morning began to be hungry, the wind still continuing to blow too strong for us to start. I had a fish hook and with some twine made a line, got some bait and tried to catch some fish; I caught a few small perch and one large "sheep's head." These we dressed and cooked on coals, and tried to eat without bread or salt. The perch went well, but the more we broiled the sheep's head the tougher it became. We could not master it. This was the first as well

as the last time I ever attempted to cook and eat a "sheep's head."

On the way down the Sandusky river, I passed two or three hundred newly made Indian bark canoes, they were collecting to go to Malden to sell their services or make pretence of doing so, to the British, preparatory to the war which was then close at hand.

I waited on the Peninsula three or four weeks for the vessel to come up to carry away our pork &c. In the meantime we built a log block-house for the settlers to protect themselves in from the Indians. After the declaration of war the people removed, and the Indians burnt down the block house.

When the vessel arrived, she was brought into the bay near Bull's Island. We boated the pork to her until she was nearly full, and then took her over the bar outside, and boated the remainder to her. We started with a fair wind, ran over the Lake finely, and "came to" under the lee of Bird Island, at the entrance into the Niagara River. I found a regiment of volunteers at Black Rock. The same afternoon when I arrived at Black Rock, I started on foot for Lewiston, and in a few days war was declared.

In 1807, the village of Lewiston contained two small frame and five or six log houses. The ground on either side of Main street, for a short distance, was cleared and fenced in, and corn and other grain grown upon it. There were many old, dry trees standing, and thick woods bounded it on the north and south sides.

In 1800 the second census was taken, and in apportioning the members of Assembly amongst the several counties, by an act passed in the Legislature, April 3, 1801, Ontario and Steuben counties, (the latter one having been set off from the

former in 1796,) were to have two members, being one half the number that Erie County now has.

In May, 1807, I crossed the ferry at Avon, on the Genessee River, with a wagon drawn by two yoke of oxen and a horse, with a driver. After passing the flats, about two miles from the river, there was a small cluster of Indian buildings called Can-ne-wagus. From this place I recollect but one log building until reaching the small Scotch settlement of Caledonia. In 1811 there was at this place a wood-colored house without porch or steeple to denote its use.—This was the Scotch Presbyterian Meeting House, and is said to be the first building erected, or exclusively used for Divine Worship, in the State of New York, on or west of the Genessee River. The term “exclusively” may give this building the seniority, but as early as 1807 I attended Divine Service in a very convenient frame building, painted and with a cupola on it, erected for a school and meeting house in the Indian village of Tuscarora.* At this time the Rev. Mr. Holmes, a Baptist clergyman, preached in it. His son, Philip, afterwards married Sylvia, the daughter of the late Dr. Cyrenius Chapin, of this city.

From Caledonia to Le Roy on the west side of Allen's Creek, were a number of buildings. At Le Roy were a small mill and three or four small houses, and about thirty or forty acres of land cleared. Here Richard M. Stoddard lived in what was then called the town of Northampton. Between this place and the present village of Stafford, where Captain Nathan Marvin lived, on the west side of Black Creek, there was only one log house, but was then unoccupied. The land

* March 30, 1802, the Legislature appropriated 1500 dollars for the erecting one suitable house for public and religious worship, and for the keeping of a school, in each of the villages of Tuscarora and Seneca tribes of Indians, and to be denominated Church and School house.

between these two places was exceedingly heavily timbered, and the road almost impassable. The morning I came through there it rained very hard, and I had great difficulty in getting along.

Between Stafford and Batavia, and towards the latter place, a number of farms had been taken up and settlements made upon them. At Batavia was a small village, and the County Court House. My father was Sherif of the County of Genesee that year, and executed, in August, a Scotchman by the name of McLean, for killing, in a barbarous manner, with an axe, two of his neighbors and countrymen in Caledonia.

Gov. Tompkins was then the Circuit Judge who presided at the trial of this man. The great numbers attending the Court made it difficult to get lodgings, and, as has been done in later times between two other great men, the Judge and the Sherif had to sleep in the same bed.

Near the arsenal in Batavia the road divides, one branch running to Buffalo, the other to Lewiston by the way of Lockport. This latter was then called the Queenstown road. After travelling on it to Dunham's farm, four or five miles west of Batavia, to Forsyth's, (now Warren's) on the Ridge Road, another distance of thirty miles, only four log houses could be found. The first from Dunham's, thirteen miles after crossing the Indian openings, was Walworth's. Near here is the eastern line of the present County of Niagara, and the now beautiful and rich township of Royalton. From Walworth's through very heavy timbered land, about six miles to Waldo's, there was only the shell of a log building, without chimney or chamber floor, and the lower one covered only in part by slabs split from logs, the family living there was very poor and appeared to be in want of almost every thing. The only opening in the woods was eight or ten

acres of land chopped over. Then through the same kind of country five miles to Charles Wilbor's at the Cold Spring, about one a half miles east of Lockport, then through unbroken woods to Forsyth's on the Ridge Road.

From this place to where Col. Dickinson now lives, six miles east of Lewiston, a few log dwellings were scattered along the road. Here the road went up the mountain through the Tuscarora Indian village, and intersected the portage road near where it descends the mountain to the village of Lewiston. The great Ridge Road was then unopened and no settlements were upon it except an isolated dwelling here and there.

Such was the condition of the present County of Niagara forty years ago. Now it is, for its size, one of the most productive agricultural Counties in the State, containing over 40,000 inhabitants, with many fine flourishing villages, good roads in all directions, with two or three railroads and the great Erie Canal passing through it.

In 1808 the British soldiers of the 41st regiment, stationed at Fort George, deserted a good deal, and to stop it the Indians on our side were employed to arrest them and take them back over the river. I have seen a large number — twenty or more — British soldiers sent over the river, tramping with impunity up and down the main street in Lewiston, enquiring and searching for deserters. The Indians caught two and took them down past Lewiston, in the night, over the river. They were severely flogged, and it was reported that each one received five hundred lashes. The feelings of our people became aroused at this insolent mode of capturing deserters and determined to stop it. For two or three miles on the road running east of Lewiston the people had tin horns to give notice to each other of trouble. I remember that one bright moon light night we were all aroused by the blowing

of the horns, and men armed came rushing in with information that the Indians had got some deserters and were coming on with them. My old rifle which one of our hired men took to arm himself with that night, got nearly broken to pieces, by his tumbling over a log, while running. The alarm proved false.

About the same time a Sergeant, Mr. Donald, who had charge of some 25 men at Queenstown, came over with three or four men to hunt for deserters. This party the citizens captured and were about starting them off to the jail at Batavia, when a committee of some of the leading men in Canada came across the river, and an agreement was made with our people that no more soldiers should be sent to our side or Indians employed to catch deserters.

In 1809, during the embargo, a man by the name of Dorman had an apothecary's shop in Lewiston. He had goods and potash that were of great value in Canada, but the embargo prohibited their being taken over. On town meeting day which was on the first Tuesday of April, when every man in the place was attending the meeting, some twelve miles distant, Dorman had two or three boats come from Queenstown with twenty or twenty-five men armed with clubs swinging to their wrists. They opened the store and rolled the ashes and carried the other property down the hill and took it over the river. Having so much to do, they did not quite get through until the men began to return from the meeting, where they had got information of what was going on. The party from Canada had to leave part of the property, and our folks captured some of the gallipots.

While relating border or frontier incidents in which men were the actors, I must in justice to the Lewiston boys, relate one in which they alone were concerned — nothing less than beginning a war with Canada on their own account. A Mr.

Alexander Miller, from Scotland, (his son Alexander, one of the boys, is well known to many of our dealers, who obtain from him the beautiful peaches, grapes, plums and apples seen in our market,) was an early settler on the banks of the Niagara river, one mile below Lewiston. He brought into the country an extensive assortment of shelf hardware, comprising almost every article from a cambric needle to a beetle ring, with several kegs of powder, shot and lead. He had four sons with him, young lads. The mother remained yet in Scotland. They lived and kept the goods in a small log building. A little before, or about the time of the commencement of the embargo, the old gentleman went to Scotland for his wife, and left the boys alone.

The elder one proposed to the boys in Lewiston, then only some six or eight in number, that we should get up a training company, and he would furnish the powder necessary to fire the salutes. This was an important matter, as boys had no money to buy such things then. The proposition was immediately accepted, and we made him general as well as commissary. We constructed a regular battery on the banks of the river with embrasures for cannon, went into the woods, and chopped down some maple saplings, about five or six inches in diameter, cut them into pieces about two and a half feet long, bored them out with a two inch auger, and put on each end a beetle ring, mounted them on blocks and garnished our battery. We had some eight or ten of them. We had been into the forts at the mouth of the river and seen the manner of piling up the cannon balls along side of each gun. We then made as many as a barrel full of balls of the clay in the bank, and dried them in the sun, and piled up in proper order by the side of each cannon, a sufficient number of balls. Here we went through our military evolutions, mounted guard, and did garrison duty every leisure day we could get. The General

rode a small sorrel pony which he called Stirling, but speaking in rather a broad dialect, he pronounced it *Studgel*, and we gave this name to the horse.

One afternoon while we were all present, each with his shot gun on his shoulder, and having much to do that day, we did not get through until dark. About twilight, we discovered a British schooner bound to Queenstown, coming up the river under full sail, with her flag flying, and keeping very close to our side to avoid the current. We manned our battery, and when she came opposite the work, peremptorily ordered her to strike her colors and come to. She not obeying our orders, we opened our wooden cannon at her, the mud balls striking the water made considerable splashing, she "up helm" and ran down the river; and losing that wind did not get up for three or four days.

This affair made a great noise. A deputation came from Canada and represented, that if the officer having charge of the troops along the river to guard the revenue laws, followed up his reckless conduct of firing into unarmed vessels coming up the river on their lawful business, and having no design or intention to violate our laws, some one would be killed, shots might be returned from the opposite side, and serious consequences follow. When the affair was explained, and they were informed that the whole was the work of boys with wooden cannon, the deputation quietly returned.

It was only shadowing forth what did actually happen in a few years, in which men and real cannon, and not boys and wooden ones, were the actors.

All the boys are now either dead or scattered in different parts, except Alexander Miller, who yet resides on the old homestead, not far from where the battery was built. There were some gallant spirits among those boys. One, Peter Gamble, fell some years afterwards in the action on Lake

Champlain, on the 11th September, 1814, as 1st Lieutenant of Commodore McDonough's ship. The result of that battle was, as is well known, the capture of a fleet and the bringing down of many British flags.

Noble and generous Peter, no braver spirit than thine ever walked the deck of a ship, and none more gallant ever raised his arm in defence of our glorious stars and stripes. None knew thee but to love thee. Thou art gone! But thy memory will be cherished by the writer, one of thy early playmates, while life shall last, and thy name will live on the page of thy country's history.

In 1816, the last summer I ever stopped at Lewiston, Capt. Ephraim F. Gilbert, now living in Aurora in this county, had the contract for getting out stone to build the wall around Fort Niagara. He opened a quarry on the river bank a short distance above the ferry at the narrowest point of the river. He had a large number of men employed in the quarry, and on a certain time, the officer who commanded on Queenstown Heights, in punishing one of his men had him brought to the river bank in sight of the quarry men, the person of the offender was indecently exposed and turned towards the quarry. This act the quarrymen deemed insulting to them and resented it in language not the most refined. The officer considered himself insulted by the freedom of their remarks. To conciliate his good feelings after this, every time he sounded his bugle horn, it would be imitated as near as could be by a tin horn from the men amongst the rocks. This gave him such mortal offence, that, it was reported, he declared if this horn blowing was not stopped he would fire cannon shot into the village.

This report, true or false, was a proclamation of good luck to the man who had a little tin factory in that place. All of the boys, many of the men, and I believe some of the women, all ran to the shop and got each a tin horn, and blew forth such a

blast of indignation and contempt as would have annihilated anything else but an officer who would make such a threat.

In 1803, the Surveyor General employed my uncle, Judge Annin, of Cayuga, to survey the mile strip or State reservation on the Niagara river. He was to commence at the line of the garrison grounds of fort Niagara, a mile south of Lake Ontario, where the present village of Youngstown now stands, and lay it out into farm lots averaging one hundred and sixty acres, as near as he could, up as far as the ground reserved for military purposes at Black Rock, the line of which is near where the brick church stands in that place, excepting one mile square—now Lewiston—the Schlosser farm, and two reservations a mile square each, given by the Indians to Parish and Jones, north of the Ska-joc-quad-da creek. He finished the survey in 1804. In 1805 the land was advertised for sale, and at the same time, public notice was given, that the State would lease the landing place at Lewiston with the ferry and farm lot attached to it, as well as the Schlosser farm and the landing at that place.

The terms of the lease which was put up at public auction were, that the person or persons who would take the whole and erect docks and storehouses at Lewiston and Schlosser, and surrender them to the State at the termination of the lease, without compensation, for the least number of years, should have it. Large numbers met at Albany, where the sale took place, amongst others my father, my uncle Judge Annin, Judge and General Peter B. Porter, all determined to buy land and bid for the lease. My father and uncle and the Porters, at that place, and for the first time, entered into business and friendly relations, which continued undisturbed until death parted them. All the parties are now dead except Judge Porter. They were the successful bidders for the lease. This gave them the exclusive power to do the transportation business

around the Falls on the American side, as the lease included the only landing places on the river. They also purchased many of the farm lots, as well as the property around the Falls.

In the fall of 1805, Judge Porter came out from Canandaigua and built a saw-mill at the Falls; he removed with his family in the spring of 1806 to fort Schlosser and lived for three or four years in the old English mess-house. That summer my father also came out (he did not remove his family to Lewiston until the spring of 1807) and assisted in erecting a large grist mill at the Falls; as it was a large frame, difficult to raise, and men were scarce, the commanding officer at fort Niagara, permitted the soldiers of the fort to go up and assist. The same year, they commenced the transportation business across the portage, and boating up the river to Black Rock. *This was the beginning of the first regular and connected line of transporters on the American side, that ever did buisness on these great waters.* They were connected with Jonathan Walton & Co. of Schenectady, who sent the property in boats up the Mohawk river, and down Wood Creek and other waters to Oswego, there Matthew McNair carried it over Lake Ontario; Porter Barton & Co. took it from Lewiston to Black Rock, where were some small vessels to distribute it up the Lakes.

The lease was originally for 12 or 13 years, the war of 1812 interrupted the buisness for some years, in consideration of which, the State (who refused to sell the landings) renewed it for five years, upon rebuilding the ware-houses which had been destroyed during the war, and which were to be surrendered to the State at the end of the five years. They had before the war lost two or three ware houses at Lewiston, by ice jams in the river.

Until the formation of the "Portage Company," as it was called, the salt manufactured at Salina, and other property

going West, were taken around the Falls by the way of Queenstown on the Canada side, except the little transported by a Mr. Wilson, who had a small store of goods in one of the log buildings at Lewiston, and to whom the late Mr. Hamott, of Erie, Pa., was a clerk, a year or two before. He had no regular organized line through from Schenectady, but was the owner of a vessel on Lake Ontario, called the Fair American — sailed I think by Capt. Augustus Ford, now nearly eighty years old, a Sailing Master in the Navy, residing at Sacket's Harbor.

The road up the Mountain and over the Portage was then in very bad order, and they expended a good deal of money and labor in putting it in condition to be used. They encountered strong opposition from the Canada forwarders by the way of Queenstown. That road was better. There were more teams and wagons on that side of the river, more capital, and many other advantages over the new beginners on the American side.

The business required to be done at that early day and indeed to the time of the expiration of the renewed lease in 1821, was very limited.

About thirty years ago, I published in one of the Buffalo papers, and think it was the Niagara Patriot, edited by Hezekiah A. Salisbury, a particular account of all the property which passed up and down the Niagara river that season. The firm with which I was connected, Sill, Thompson & Co., was the only one engaged in the river transportation on the American side, and all property passed through our hands. It made a respectable appearance at that day. We thought it a good business and so did every body else. I have looked over the files of old newspapers in this Association to find it, but as the files are not complete, did not succeed. My object was to institute a comparison of the business then and now.

The business done on the Erie Canal to and from Buffalo in 1847, I have appended to this paper, but as it forms a mass of figures, I will not read it. From my recollection of the business of 1818, the whole amount, neither in quantity or value was as much as was done on Buffalo Creek in 1847 in a single day, during our busiest time.

There was nothing coming from the west until after the war, except a few furs, and peltries; and the greater part of the up business was the transportation of salt, a little merchandise for the merchants of the small village of Buffalo, and the fur and other traders at the west, the Government annuities for the Indians, and the clothing and supplies for the few troops at the several posts around the Upper Lakes.

Porter, Barton & Co. owned two boats of about twenty tons each for the river business; one of these, loaded with salt, in attempting to sail from Schlosser, through between Grand and Navy Islands, got into the strong current, where the wind failed them, and the water being too deep to use their setting poles, the whole were carried over the Falls except one man, who succeeded in reaching Goat (now Iris) Island. Capt. William Valentine commanded the boat. I am not able to state precisely the year when this occurred, but it was sometime previous to the war of 1812.

They built a warehouse, nearly opposite the place where the new mill on the Black Rock pier above Squaw Island is being erected; and a store for retailing merchandize on a point of rocks on the river, at the foot of the ravine or gully where Niagara street, leading from Buffalo, approaches near the bank. The road from Ketchum's corner, (now the Gardens) kept along the crown of the ridge, and fell into the road from Buffalo, a short distance west of the Poor House, and then descended the gully I have mentioned, to the spot where the ferry across the river was kept. At the foot of the hill, and

south of the road, Major Frederick Miller, kept for several years a tavern in a log house. The greatest part of the travel for many years between Buffalo and Black Rock, was round by the way of the beach of the lake.

Porter, Barton & Co., put up the walls of a store house on Bird Island, which was then a cluster of rocks and gravel above the water, for two or three acres, and upon which grew a few bushes; but the swells from the lake during a high storm beat them down. Much of the stone from this island, as well as from the reefs above, were afterwards used in constructing Buffalo and Black Rock piers.

Subsequently to the attempt to erect a storehouse upon the Island, they put up a large pier with a shed upon it, under the lee of the island, to deposite salt and other property on, and here the vessels used to come and get their loading. The property was hauled up the rapids to this place in the boats which brought it up from Schlosser. This was the mode adopted before the war, to obviate the difficulty and delay to vessels, in getting up the rapids. After the war they always descended the rapids, and when the wind was not strong enough to take them into the lake, horse and ox teams were used to tow them up.

At the commencement of the war of 1812, three or four of the small vessels navigating the lake were laid up in Ska-joc-quad-da Creek. They were purchased by the Government, and during the winter of 1812 and 1813, were fitted up as war vessels, together with the brig Caledonia, a British vessel cut out in October previous, with the American brig Adams (which had been surrendered by General Hull at Detroit, from under the guns of Fort Erie) by a party of seaman and soldiers, under the command of Lieut., afterwards Capt. Elliot, of the Navy. Capt. James Sloan, of this city, was one of pilots on that occasion. The brig Adams, in descending the river in the night, ran

aground near the head, on the outer side of Squaw Island, and not being able to get her afloat, she was burnt at that place. The brig *Caledonia* also grounded in the rapids, but after great exertion and difficulty, was saved with her cargo of furs and peltries, of considerable value.

These furs and peltries were taken from the vessel and deposited in a slightly constructed building inside of a large battery called "Fort Tompkins," on the hill above the old ferry. Soon after, during a cannonading across the river, a shell or hot shot was thrown by the enemy, the building set on fire and some of the furs destroyed.

On the top of the bank, on the south side of the creek, between the road and river, a strong battery and block house*

*Early in the morning before day light, of the 11th of July, 1813, a party of British troops, about three hundred in number, commanded by Col. Bishop, crossed the Niagara river below Squaw Island, seized this block house and burnt it, together with the temporary barracks erected for the use of the seamen while fitting out the vessels. The party then moved up into the village of Black Rock. Gen Porter's house was nearly surrounded before the enemy was discovered. The General had barely time to make his escape and flee to the woods. The British took possession of the store house on the wharf, and were busily engaged in taking out the flour, whiskey, &c. which it contained. During this time, Gen. Porter made his way to Buffalo, where Capt. Cummings, of the regular army, had under his command, of foot and dragoon soldiers, less than one hundred men. These, of course, were ready at a moment's notice, and the General having rallied some of the Militia which fled from Black Rock when the British entered it, and Capt. Bull, (now of Canandaigua,) and many of the citizens of Buffalo, promptly arming and volunteering their services, and receiving the aid of about thirty Seneca Indians, the whole force proceeded to Black Rock and made a spirited attack on Col. Bishop, defeated and drove him and his party into their boats and across the river. Col. Bishop was dangerously wounded, and Capt. Saunders of the 49th regiment, badly, though not mortally wounded, was taken prisoner.

The spot where this block house stood, became distinguished before the close of the war, as the theatre of a most brilliant affair.

It is well known that the American army, after the severe battle of Lundy's Lane, on the 25th of July, 1814, retired to Fort Erie, where they hastily threw up additional works for defence. Gen. Drummond, with the British Army, greatly superior in force, immediately followed and invested the works, and constant cannonading and fighting occurred between the armies for about fifty days. The provisions and supplies quite (unprotected) for the American Army, were in deposite at Buffalo, and were sent across the river as they were wanted.

During the investment, Gen. Drummond, before daylight on the 5th of August, sent Col. Tucker with more than 1100 British regular troops across the Niagara river. They

were erected, called "The Sailors' Battery," for the protection of the vessels while fitting out.

On the 27th of May, 1813, Fort George at the mouth of the river was taken by the American army under Gen. Dearborn. Col. Preston, afterwards Governor of Virginia, then in command of Black Rock, crossed the river, and took possession of Fort Erie, and the whole frontier between the lakes fell into our possession. The vessels availing themselves of the absence of the enemy from the opposite shore, early in June, embraced the first fair wind and ascended the rapids and joined Commodore Perry at Erie, and formed part of his fleet in the glorious victory of the 10th of September, of that year.

At the land sale in Albany, in 1805, Birdsey Norton, of Connecticut, the Rev. John McDonald, of Albany, father-in-law of Archibald McIntire, (for many years Comptroller of the State.)

landed a mile or two below this creek. The object Col. Tucker had in view, was to penetrate to Buffalo, break up our hospitals, which stood near where the Western Hotel is, destroy the Army supplies, and thus compel the troops in Fort Erie to surrender.— This purpose was frustrated by the timely arrival of Maj. L. Morgan with a small battalion of riflemen, about 250 in number, a day or two before. Maj. Morgan's command was stationed on the spot where the old block house stood, directly in front of, and near the bridge across the creek, over which Col. Tucker intended to pass. There happened to be a number of large sticks of hewn timber lying on the bank, and upon discovering the landing of the British troops, he hastily piled this timber up as a breast-work. He also removed a few planks from the bridge. The enemy in attempting to cross the bridge were received by the deadly fire of the riflemen and driven back. The attempt was repeated several times, but with the same result, and the water in the creek being too deep to ford, after fighting three hours, and suffering severe loss, the enemy re-crossed the river defeated and disappointed. The next week, Major Morgan was slain in a slight skirmish in the rear of Fort Erie, being almost the only man injured on the occasion.

On the 15th of August, a few hours before daylight, nearly the whole British Army made a furious assault on the American forces under the command of Gen. Gaines, in Fort Erie, and were most signally defeated, losing but little short of 1000 men, the American loss 70 or 80. Early in September, the Militia of Western New York began to assemble at Buffalo. Enough of them volunteered to cross the river to relieve the army in Fort Erie, and enable it to act offensively. On the 17th, Gov. Brown, who had recovered from his wounds and assumed the command, made his gallant sortie, which resulted in the entire destruction of the besiegers' batteries, block houses and cannon, and defeat and capture of most of the troops employed in them. A few days subsequent Gen. Drummond broke up his long siege and moved down the river.

John M'Lean of Orange county, (for a long time Commissary General,) Augustus and Peter B. Porter, Benjamin Barton and Joseph Annin, purchased four farm lots containing about seven hundred acres of land south of and adjoining Ska-joc-quad-da creek, which they had surveyed into a village plot in 1811, by Apollus Stevens, and called Black Rock.

Thick woods and heavy timber covered the ground from Staats' factory in this city, far below the residence of the late Gen. Porter. The clearing away of the woods, the construction of the canal and the opening of the large stone quarries on the river bank at Black Rock, have so completely changed the appearance of things at that place, that it retains but little resemblance to its former condition.

The city of Buffalo was laid out into a village plot in 1804, by Joseph Ellicott, and named New Amsterdam. Although I saw the place at an early day, yet there are many residing here, who are much better acquainted with its early appearance and the changes that have since taken place. I will leave the task of describing it to them.

I am well aware I have detained you long, perhaps too long, in the rambling and discursive course I have taken in my remarks. In running over such an extensive district of country as I have done, I had one particular object in view. I wished to call the minds of the rising population which is now filling up the country, to the contemplation of these astonishing facts:—That tho' between the years 1787 and 1847, we were engaged in a three years' war with England, and for seven other years the whole North Western Territory was disrupted by the Indian difficulties in it, and which impeded the settlement of the country—yet, no more than sixty years have passed away, since the great country around these lakes, from the banks of the Seneca Lake to the Mississippi river, was an unbroken wilderness. That its whole population at that time did not

exceed four thousand white inhabitants, without towns or farms, business or agriculture, and that the principal means of subsistence were a little corn and the game in the woods. That this same district of country now contains a vigorous, intelligent and enterprising population, but little, if any, less than six millions, with many large and beautiful cities, rising towns, richly cultivated farms, churches in every direction for the worship of God—colleges, academics and other institutions of learning in large numbers—manufactures and the arts in a flourishing condition, and the blessings and comforts of wealth surrounding us in the most profuse manner. That it is but fifty years since the first little vessel was built, that we ever had on these great lakes, which are now covered with the magnificent fleets of steam and sail vessels crowding our port to overflowing, bringing to and carrying away the productions of agriculture and the arts. That the rivers of the west leading from the same district of country, are filled with steam and other craft; and that the annual transit of property through these rivers and over our magnificent lakes, exceeds in value by many millions of dollars, the whole foreign commerce of the union with all the nations of the world!

Truly, we have cause to be proud of the land we live in, and of our glorious institutions which permit us to exercise to the fullest extent, the best faculties which God has given to us—and a high duty falls upon us, continually to advance the prosperity of, and to be ever ready and willing to guard, preserve and defend our rich inheritance.

ERRATA.

- At page 35 in the note, for "Mr. Rogere," read Mr. Rogers.
page 38 third line from bottom, for "Buff," read Bruff.
page 41 last line, for "Simon," read Simeon.
page 57 seventh line, for "Mr. Donald," read McDonald.
page 67 in note, fifth line from bottom, for "Gor" Brown, read Gen. Brown.

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